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REYKJAVIK DESIGNERS SUGGEST THE BEST PLACES TO SHOP, EAT AND STAY — TIME TO SAY 'BLESS BLESS' TO YOUR PRECONCEPTIONS OF THIS NORDIC ISLAND PAGE 29

TORONTO metro®
Wednesday, March 21, 2012
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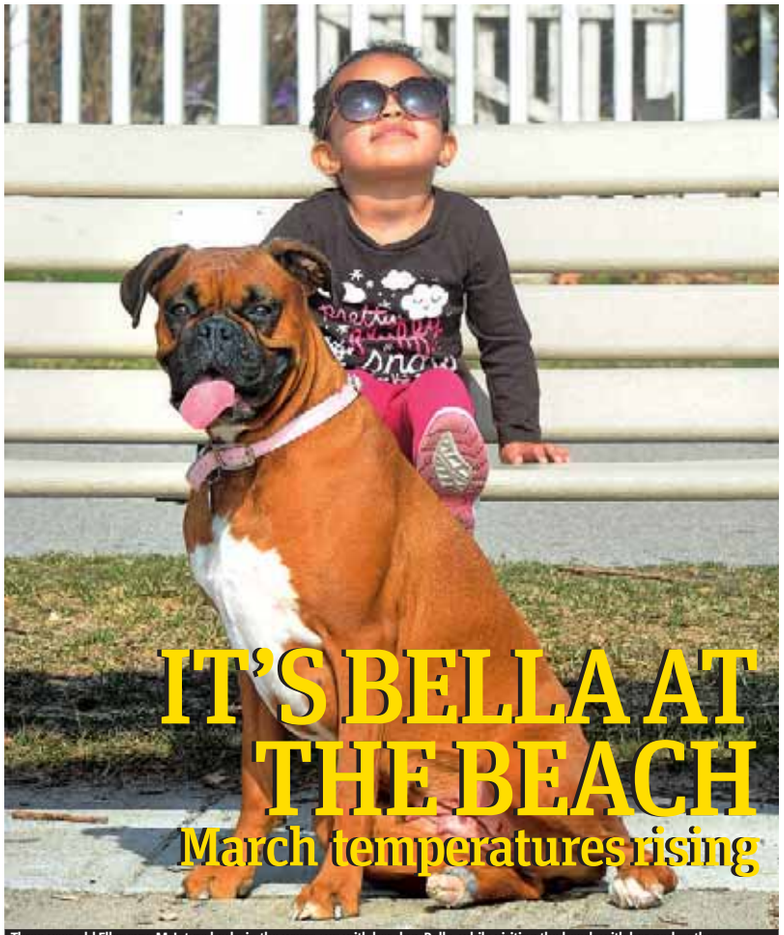

IT'S BELLA AT THE BEACH

March temperatures rising

Three-year-old Ellanoyre McIntyre basks in the warm sun with her dog, Bella, while visiting the beach with her godmother. If winter felt more like spring, then the first day of spring felt as hot and hazy as summer. A normal high for this time of year is 6 C. We might see a record 26 C by Thursday. As a result, trees are budding and flowers are sprouting. COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A tax hike to help pay for new subways?

Strategizing. Five Scarborough councillors pitch a 1% hike; a sixth defects to the LRT camp

Mayor Rob Ford's allies scrambled to find a compromise that would get council support Wednesday for subway construction on Sheppard Avenue, even as another ally came out solidly for surface light rail.

Five pro-subway Scarborough councillors met Ford Monday to pitch proposals the mayor's office could turn into a motion for council to consider, said Coun. Michael Thompson.

Thompson said that, as far as he's concerned, a property-tax increase has to be one of a range of revenue ideas the city will need. A parking levy that could produce $90 million a year for the subway was also discussed, said Thompson (Ward 37-Scarborough Centre).

"Clearly there is the parking levy. There is also the possibility of one per cent (tax increase) dedicated for transit," he said. "There's got to be a way to finance it. That's what we're bringing to the table."

The five Scarborough councillors — Thompson, Norm Kelly, Mike Del Grande, Michelle Berardinetti and Paul Ainslie — told the mayor "what we believed we should act upon."

There were signs Tuesday afternoon that Ford's office was poised to announce his support for a revenue-raising plan, if it got the support of key centrist councillors. But no announcement came.

Centrist and left-leaning councillors were also strategizing about how to get an LRT-based transit plan that doesn't alienate Scarborough residents. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Mexico's south hardest hit

Damage from Tuesday's earthquake is most severe in Oaxaca and Guerrero states, where 60 homes reportedly collapsed PAGES 16-17

Baddest of them all

Actor who plays Cato in The Hunger Games says that while his character is a trained killer, his 'substance and depth' are interesting PAGE 24

Employers ask for login info

Instead of just perusing job candidates' Facebook profiles, some U.S. companies are asking for their passwords PAGE 11

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Long after completion, St. Clair streetcar getting mixed reviews

Transit. It's still getting bad press, but the streetcar right-of-way may have been a rite of passage for St. Clair

Shrouded in a dusty cloud of controversy from the outset, the St. Clair streetcar's dedicated lane still draws mixed reviews nearly two years after its completion.

But if the St. Clair streetcar is the disaster being touted by Mayor Rob Ford, there are few current signs of it on the street, or in the statistics.

Condo hoardings and stylish restaurants are elbowing out empty storefronts, suggesting the streetcar right-of-way may have been a rite of passage for St. Clair.

If city council votes as expected Wednesday, in favour of light rail on Sheppard Avenue East, Scarborough will get a version of transit that is superior even to St. Clair, which is significantly improved because it now runs on its own lane, says TTC Service Planning manager Mitch Stambler.

"Industry best-practice LRT, as per Sheppard or Finch, has stops further apart so the light-rail vehicles can really get going. The speed and reliability will be dramatically faster and reliable," he said.

TTC officials have admitted project management on the St. Clair right of way was a painful lesson in how not to build transit.

But there have been gains. Round-trip times are down 14 per cent on average. A midday Saturday trip has been reduced to 56 minutes from 70. Ridership of 32,400 people daily on the 512 streetcar is up 13 per cent overall since pre-construction days in 2005, Stambler says.

Still, Sutton Group realtor Josie Stern is on the fence about how much the streetcar right-of-way has contributed to higher property values in the area, where housing prices have risen 35 to 40 per cent — "a bit more than the city as a whole."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"The streetcar just adds to the beauty of it, to the upscaleness of it."

Realtor Jose Stern

"Personally I prefer subways but St. Clair is not as bad as people make it out to be," says Beau Acapella, who owns a men's clothing shop with his brother Victor. "It is nice to see people travelling above ground so that they see your store and area has been re-zoned for higher rise buildings," he said Tuesday. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Accused blames ex-lover for killing

Michelle Liard, 21, and her former boyfriend, Rafal LaSota, 28, each face first-degree murder charges in the December 2008 slaying of 13-year-old Aleksandra Firgan-Hewie. SUBMITTED

Accused child killer Michelle Liard giggled nervously but otherwise maintained her composure as she told a Brampton courtroom she didn't help her ex-boyfriend murder a Mississauga Grade 8 student.

"Did you want Rafal LaSota to kill Aleksandra Firgan-Hewie?" her defence lawyer, Daniel Brodsky, asked in court on Tuesday.

"No," Liard replied in a clear voice.

LaSota sat bolt upright and stared at his former lover as she described him as the sole killer of Firgan-Hewie, 13, on Dec. 10, 2008.

Liard and LaSota are each charged with first-degree murder in Firgan-Hewie's death.

LaSota has cried frequently during the trial but he controlled his tears as Liard told the jury he's a killer who acted alone the night the schoolgirl was stabbed 37 times and beaten repeatedly.

Liard quickly distanced herself from LaSota, who one of her former friends described as her fiancé in earlier testimony. She took the stand in a conservative charcoal grey pantsuit.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Testimony

Liard said she did wash out some of LaSota's bloody clothing but didn't help him dispose of the body, which was found in a fetal position, stuffed into a garbage bag in LaSota's backyard.

1 NEWS

On the mobile

While it might be more comfortable to sleep through a colonoscopy, the side effects of the sedation amount to more than just grogginess. Scan the code for the story.

On the web

Quake ignites memories

A 7.4-magnitude quake shook central and southern Mexico yesterday, reminding some of the bitter memories of the 1985 quake that killed hundreds. For videos, reactions and the science behind the quake, visit metronews.ca

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Fewer cops earning six-figure salaries

Data. Toronto Police Service employs close to 8,000 people

The number of Toronto police officers who earned more than $100,000 was down in 2011 compared with the year before. And there may be a simple explanation: The G20 summit.

In 2010, overtime charged by police-service employees for the leaders' summit helped push the earnings of 2,159 of them over the six-digit mark. Last year, no event even came close.

Some 2,027 employees earned $100,000 or more in 2011 — 132 fewer than the previous year, even taking into account wage gains.

Police Chief Bill Blair did eliminate many senior command positions in a restructuring last year, but those reductions had yet to show any effect in the 2011 salary numbers.

The Toronto Police Services Board released the statistics Tuesday under the Public Sector Disclosure Act.

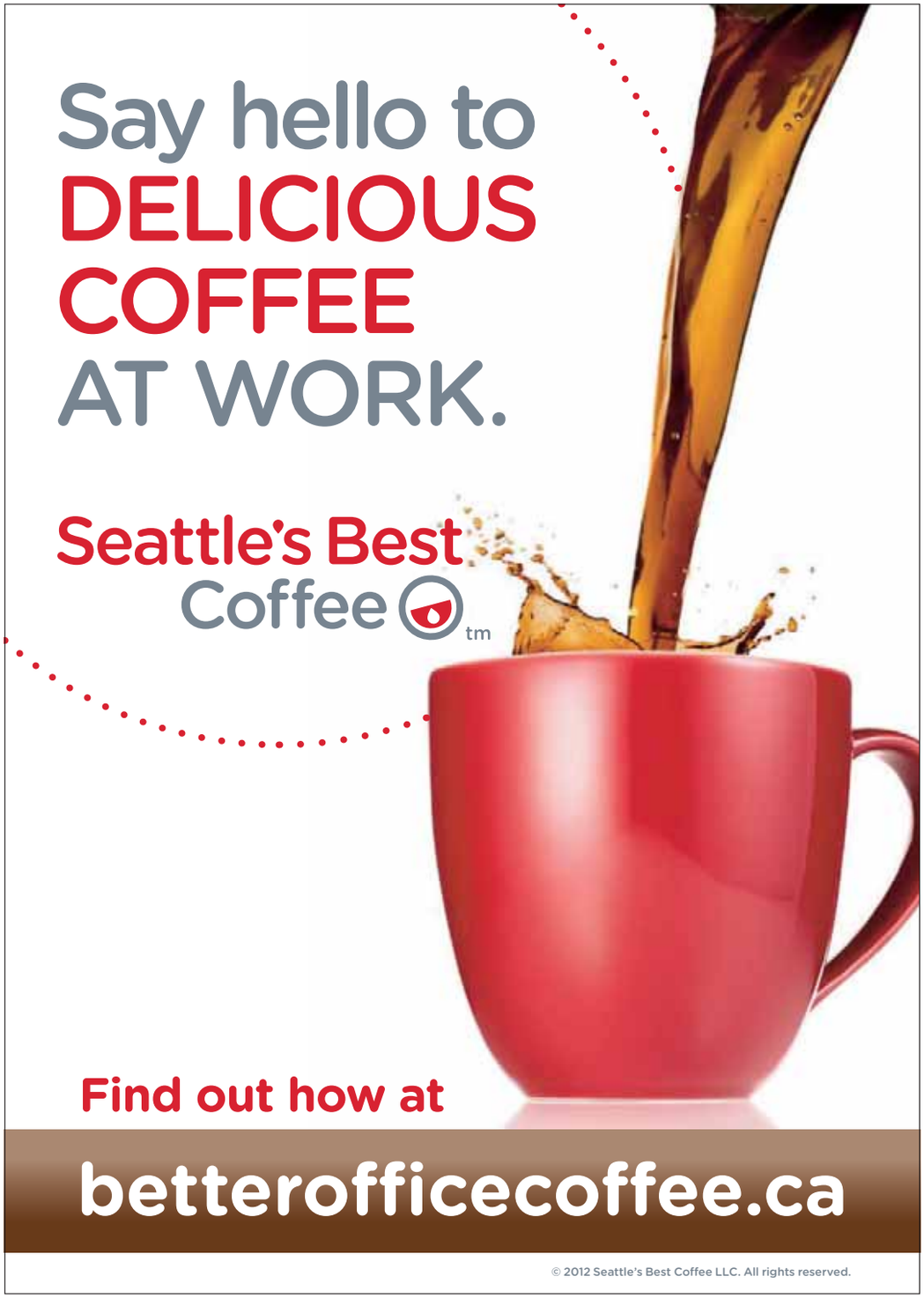
Of the 2,027 who topped $100,000 in 2011, 1,569 had a base salary lower than that — but premium pay and other payouts, such as final vacation pay, pushed them over the mark.

Premium pay is the result of court attendance, overtime and call-backs, when members are requested to return to work for various operational reasons or special projects.

In 2011, the top base salary was $102,719 for a sergeant/detective and $91,398 for a first-class constable. In 2010, those figures were $99,530 and $88,563, respectively.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Police Chief Bill Blair
ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Education. Full-day kindergartners faring better, study finds

Kids enrolled in Ontario's full-day kindergarten are better at early reading skills and math — even drawing — than those who are at school half-days, say initial findings from a longer-term study of the province's youngest students.

The study, to be released Wednesday, found senior kindergarten students were ahead in vocabulary, knowledge of the alphabet, phonological/letter sound awareness, reading, and even "produced more complex drawings than control-group children and included more details on characters' faces and bodies," says Janette Pelletier, investigator for the study and a long-time kindergarten researcher.

The results come on the heels of a commitment by the premier and education minister to keep the pricey program after economist Don Drummond suggested scrapping it — or at least slowing it down — because it will cost the province more than $1.5 billion a year when fully implemented in the fall of 2014. It began in the fall of 2010.

Pelletier, of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto, is following students at seven full-day schools in the Peel District School Board and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic board.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Little bit extra

"Teachers have the time to let kids go a little more deeply and play around with concepts, play around with letters, with books and words and really get at it."

Dan Reidy, academic co-ordinator at Dufferin-Peel Catholic board.

Survey. Students want less government spending

Ontario high school students were given the chance to weigh in on ongoing budget debates and they voted overwhelmingly to cut spending, but preferred that government leave health care and education alone.

Instead, 81 per cent of the 1,367 surveyed supported an increase in "sin" taxes on alcohol, tobacco and gambling, while 65 per cent were in favour of increasing corporate taxes to raise revenue.

Of those surveyed, 66 per cent chose health care among the seven major government sectors that should remain a spending priority, while 23 per cent chose education.

CIVIX, a charity focused on civic education, surveys students from school boards across the province as part of the Ontario Student Budget Consultation.

"It seems as though the students are showing a little bit more of a conservative side than you might expect," said Taylor Gunn, president of CIVIX.

They continued to come back to the conclusion that government is spending too much and that it needs to change, which is typically a conservative perspective, explained Gunn.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Taylor Gunn, CIVIX president
KEITH BEATY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Health

Ontario creating birthing centres

Ontario is creating two birthing centres in the province.

Premier Dalton McGuinty says it will give expectant mothers more choice in where they have their babies.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Baby soulstress

Two-year-old croons Adele hit

Young Makena, 2, and a Canadian, says her mom's YouTube channel, has garnered more than 1.6 million views of her singing along (more or less) to Adele's ballad Someone like you.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Makena YOUTUBE SCREENGRAB

Japan disaster

Harper to pay tribute to victims

Prime Minister Stephen Harper will pay his respects to the victims of last year's devastating earthquake and tsunami during his trip to Asia this week, his second to the Far East in two months.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sandusky case

Accusers' contacts given to lawyer

Prosecutors on Tuesday were ordered to give Jerry Sandusky's lawyer the phone numbers and addresses of those who have accused the former Penn State assistant football coach of child sex abuse.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Australia

Surfer stable after shark attack

A 20-year-old surfer has survived a shark attack off a popular Australian Gold Coast city beach. The news.com.au site reports Billy O'Leary was surfing Tuesday when he fell off his board and landed on the shark.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Grits won't ban patio smoking: Matthews

Health care. Calls for action made by two health agencies

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Reports

Two reports from the health-care agencies also called for hiking tobacco taxes and setting minimum prices for alcoholic beverages.

Ontario won't ban smoking on bar and restaurant patios, Health Minister Deb Matthews says, despite a push to do so by two health agencies.

"It's not something under active consideration right now but I know many municipalities are looking at strengthening the anti-smoking provisions," she said Tuesday after calls for action from Cancer Care Ontario and Public Health Ontario.

New Democrat Leader Andrea Horwath said the Liberal government — in a minority government situation — is trying to play it "safe" instead of taking action to improve public health to save tax dollars on medical treatments.

"If it's harder for people to find places to light up, then they're going to light up less often," she told reporters, crediting the two provincial agencies for "pushing the envelope."

Matthews countered that the wide-ranging Smoke-Free Ontario Act in place for several years set a "minimum standard" for banning smoking in most public indoor places.

"If municipalities want to build on that and do more, then that's a conversation I think they should be having at the community level."

The problem with that approach is different municipalities end up with different standards, leading to a patchwork of different laws, said Horwath.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quebec budget released as students continue to protest

Students demonstrate in front of the convention centre, site of the provincial budget lock up, sitting on the street and partially blocking it, Tuesday in Quebec City. The province is nearly doubling tuition fees over five years. However, the rates for in-province students are so low that they would still be among the lowest in Canada. Students say it's a question of principle — that even modest fee hikes will reduce access to education. More than 200,000 have joined a wave of "strikes" and walked out on their classes. JACQUES BOISSINOT/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gym. Liberals won't commit to mandatory classes

Ontario's Liberal government wouldn't commit Tuesday to adopting a recommendation from two provincial health agencies to make physical education classes mandatory all through high school.

Cancer Care Ontario and Public Health Ontario released a joint report on ways to reduce the province's 79 per cent death rate from various ailments including chronic respiratory disease, cardiovascular diseases, some cancers and diabetes.

"These largely preventable diseases diminish our quality of life, economy and communities," concluded the two health agencies.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tribute. NDP plan to name party HQ after Jack Layton

The federal New Democrats are set to name the Ottawa building housing party headquarters after the late Jack Layton.

A confidential email obtained and verified by the Toronto Star reveals members of the NDP federal council are voting on a motion to rename party headquarters at 279 Laurier Ave. W. the "Jack Layton Building" in honour of the leader who died last summer.

The new name was to be unveiled as a surprise for Layton's widow and fellow NDP MP Olivia Chow (Trinity–Spadina) and his family during a tribute to the former leader at the leadership convention in Toronto on Friday evening.

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Two years, two broken lives

Graham James is sentenced. Talk shows and Twitter aflame as hated hockey coach is sent to jail for hundreds of sex assaults on two players

"The most hated man in hockey" became even more reviled Tuesday.

Outrage across Canada was swift as former junior hockey coach Graham James was sentenced to two years in jail for hundreds of sexual assaults on two of his teenage players.

Few seemed to agree the sentence fitted the crime.

A spectator in the Winnipeg courtroom shouted "Yay!" then spat out a more colourful condemnation as James was led away in handcuffs.

"Goodbye, you piece of (expletive)," the man said.

Talk show phone lines lit up with people expressing harsh views of the sentence. Others took to Twitter to voice their disgust.

"Graham James gets two years for all the lives he's ruined? Someone caught with weed gets a harsher sentence," one person tweeted. "Is that justice?"

Judge Catherine Carlson made James stand up in the prisoner's box to hear his fate.

The 59-year-old — looking gaunt, his head closely shaven — showed no emotion but simply answered "yes" when she asked him if he understood the sentence.

James pleaded guilty in December to repeatedly sexually abusing retired NHL star Theo Fleury and his cousin, Todd Holt, when they played for him in the Western Hockey League in the 1980s and '90s.

Carlson said in her lengthy sentence summation: "There is no sentence this court can impose that will give back to Mr. Holt and Mr. Fleury that which was taken from them by Mr. James."

In Cochrane, Alta., Holt declared: "This sentence today is nothing short of a national travesty because we know that childhood abuse has reached epidemic proportions in our country."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Graham James, wearing a red ski mask that concealed most of his face, tries to hide from cameras as he arrives at the courthouse in Winnipeg on Tuesday. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The victims

"Graham James is laughing all the way back to the life he has always led, knowing that justice for him is but a blip on the radar."

Todd Holt,
who, along with his cousin, NHLer Theo Fleury, was a victim of James.

"Obviously, it's not a sentence we all want to see. At least he's going back to jail."

Former NHLer Sheldon Kennedy,
one of the original players to come forward with accusations to which James pleaded guilty in 1997.

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Hunger strike. Palestinian prisoner in danger of dying, rights group says

A Palestinian woman who has refused food for the past month to protest her imprisonment by Israel without formal charges is in grave danger of dying, a medical rights group said Tuesday.

Hana Shalabi lost 31 pounds, her muscles are wasting and she is in excruciating pain, said Ran Cohen of Physicians for Human Rights-Israel, which has provided her a doctor. She has taken only water since her arrest on Feb. 16.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palestinians protest in support of Hana Shalabi, seen in poster.
MOHAMMED BALLAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. deportation

Convicted child predator returned to Canada

A Tillsonburg, Ont., man wanted on sexual assault and child pornography charges has been returned to Canada by U.S. authorities after he served his prison sentence in the U.S.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Syrian conflict

Another rebel stronghold seized by military

Syrian soldiers backed by tanks seized the eastern city of Deir el-Zour from rebels on Tuesday, the latest opposition stronghold to fall to an offensive by the better-equipped Syrian military. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Model law. Israel bans hiring underweight women

Told she was too fat to be a model, Danielle Segal shed a quarter of her weight and was hospitalized twice for malnutrition. Now that a new Israeli law prohibits the employment of underweight models, the 19-year-old must gain some of it back if she wants to work again.

At 5-7, she weighed 116 pounds to begin with. Feeling pressure to become ever thinner, she dropped another 29 pounds.

The legislation aims to put a stop to the extremes and ease the pressure on youngsters to emulate the skin-and-bones models.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manhunt underway in France for gunman

Deadly attacks. Authorities suspect man behind a school shooting is responsible for other attacks

Police spread out across southern France by the hundreds Tuesday, hunting for an expert gunman suspected in three deadly attacks who may have neo-Nazi ties or grudges against minorities.

The manhunt took place as friends and family tearfully mourned four people slain at close range Monday at a Jewish school in the city of Toulouse — a rabbi, his two young sons and a young girl.

Authorities suspect the killer was also behind two recent attacks in the same area on French paratroopers that left three soldiers dead and one seriously wounded. The victims were of North African and French Caribbean backgrounds.

A "monster" is on the loose in France, French President Nicolas Sarkozy declared, vowing to track him down.

Focus fell Tuesday on three paratroopers who had been expelled from their regiment near Toulouse in 2008 for neo-Nazi sympathies, a police official said. The killer on Monday handled large-calibre guns with expertise, leading some to suspect he had a military or police background.

France was reeling Tuesday after Monday's shooting, the deadliest school shooting in the country and the bloodiest attack on Jewish targets in decades. Schools across the country held a moment of silence Tuesday to honour the victims, who were heading to Israel for burial.

Interior Minister Claude Gueant described the suspect as "someone very cold, very determined, very much a master of his movements, and by consequence, very cruel."

Gueant said the attacker was wearing a camera around his neck that could be used to film and post video online. He said that gave investigators new clues to the killer's "profile," although he admitted they don't appear close to an arrest.

He mentioned the three paratroopers who had been kicked out but insisted it was just one of many leads being investigated and "not favoured any more than the others."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A youngster cries against a hearse following a ceremony Tuesday at the Ozar Hatorah Jewish school, where a gunman opened fire killing four people in Toulouse, France. REMY DE LA MAUVINIERE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nicolas Sarkozy

"There are beings who have no respect for life. When you grab a little girl to put a bullet in her head, without leaving her any chance, you are a monster. An anti-Semitic monster, but first of all a monster." French President Nicolas Sarkozy vowed to track down the gunman.

Police probe

- Police are investigating the possibility that the killer is a former soldier with psychological troubles and racist and anti-Semitic views.
- One soldier was briefly held then released over the weekend after the paratrooper killings but before the school shooting, a police official said.

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Should your employer be your 'friend'?

Robert Collins of Baltimore was asked for his Facebook login and password during an interview for a job as a security guard.
STEVE RUARK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Social media. Some companies and government agencies are asking job applicants for access to their Facebook account

In their efforts to vet job applicants, some companies and U.S. government agencies are going beyond merely glancing at a person's social networking profiles and instead are asking to log in as the user to have a look around.

Questions have been raised about the legality of the practice, which is the focus of proposed legislation in Illinois and Maryland that would forbid public agencies from asking for access to social networks.

Since the rise of social networking, it has become common for managers to review publicly available Facebook profiles, Twitter accounts and other sites to learn more about job candidates. But many users, especially on Facebook, have their profiles set to private, making them available only to selected people or certain networks.

Companies that don't ask for passwords have taken other steps — such as asking applicants to friend human resource managers or to log in to a company computer during an interview.

Asking for a candidate's password is more prevalent among public agencies, especially those seeking to fill law enforcement positions such as police officers.

Back in 2010, Robert Collins was returning to his job as a security guard at the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services after taking a leave following his mother's death. During a reinstatement interview, he was asked for his login and password, purportedly so the agency could check for any gang affiliations. He was stunned by the request but complied.

"I needed my job to feed my family. I had to," he recalled. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Privacy concerns

"It's akin to requiring someone's house keys. ... (It's) an egregious privacy violation."

Orin Kerr, law professor
George Washington University

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Old rules trip migrant workers

Education. Rural citizens working in big Chinese cities can't send their kids to public school there, and some parents are protesting

JORDAN POUILLE
Metro World News in Beijing

Pupils in the poor backcountry of Hubei province will have to study hard, and struggle, if they want to go to university. JORDAN POUILLE/METRO WORLD NEWS

Urban vs. rural

In China, citizens are classified as urban or rural, according to their Hukou, or residential permit.

- **Double standard.** People with urban Hukou have access to state-allocated jobs while people with rural Hukou are expected to be more "self-reliant."
- **Ask the police.** Officially, Chinese people need approval from local police if they want to move out.
- **In practice.** Since China relies on cheap labour, it hardly prevents workers from travelling from their rural homes to factories.

Every last Thursday of each month, hundreds of parents gather in front of the Complaint Bureau at the Education Ministry in Beijing. You won't hear anyone shouting or see any placards. As usual, policemen film every protester. Eventually, they will ask everybody to disperse.

For three years, these fathers and mothers have been asking to meet high-rank officials in vain. Like seven million people in Beijing, a third of the capital's population, they are all migrant workers who moved to the capital to work and raise a family. Treated like outsiders, their kids can't go to local school nor can they attend exams in the city.

This is the main discrimination caused by the Hukou system in China, a centuries-old system of household registration.

"Now we have 11,000 signatures, plus 87,000 people who joined our online group anonymously," says Madam Yang from north China's Shanxi province, who works as a maid for a wealthy Beijing family. "With my husband, we have been working hard to buy a small flat. We're proud to pay our taxes here, but we still feel like second-class citizens. Our child can't enjoy basic public services like school."

The Yangs also don't have health or unemployment benefits.

Last month, China introduced a law to ban Hukou restrictions in mid-size cities, but not in major cities like Beijing or Shanghai.

Without legal access to city schools, where do these migrant kids end up?

"A donation can change many things," says a mother of twins, from Sichuan province, who wished to remain anonymous. "After negotiating, the principal asked me to make a donation, plus the tuition fees. He said the school will buy three TV sets with my money."

She gave 20,000 yuans ($3,100) or seven months' salary. Parents who can't pay a lot and don't send their kids back to their hometown have no choice but to rely on shabby, poorly subsidized migrant schools, places that offer low education with poor facilities. Last year, 23 of them in Beijing were shut down for "safety reasons."

Eventually, kids of migrant parents will face one more struggle before university: the Gaokao, a higher education entrance exam. As Metro noticed, it's not unusual for rural high school teenagers to study seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

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Evolution. Have scientists discovered a new human species?

Scientists have discovered a new population of prehistoric humans in southwest China leading evolutionary experts to question if the discovery represents a new form of human species or previously unknown ancestors of modern-day humans.

The Red Deer Cave people — named after one of the two caves they were found in — are "anatomically unique among all members of the human evolutionary tree" with their skulls featuring a mixture of primitive, contemporary and unusual features, says Darren Curnoe, a human evolution specialist at the University of New South Wales in Sydney and one of the scientists who led the discovery.

Unusual features include a broad nose and eye sockets, large molar teeth, a jutting jaw and a prominent brow bone.

Curnoe and his Chinese counterpart Professor Ji Xueping of the Yunnan Institute of Cultural Relics and Archeology studied partial remains found in two caves: One near Longlin village in Guangxi and another near Mengzi in Yunnan. It was a twist of luck that the remains from both caves matched one another, linking the two caves.

The Longlin fossils, including a lower jaw and a skull encased in a block of rock, sat in the basement of the Yunnan Institute for 30 years until Ji rediscovered them in 2009.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Red Deer Cave people

- **The Red Deer Cave people** lived 14,500 to 11,500 years ago at the end of the ice age.
- **They survived** on a diet of cooked deer meat, which became extinct during that time due to ecological and climate changes.

New discovery

"After picking up my own jaw off the floor we both realized we had potentially something quite important here."

Darren Curnoe, a human evolution specialist at the University of New South Wales.

Keeping a tradition sharp

A Balinese in a trance stabs himself with a "keris", a traditional dagger, while he and fellow Balinese attend the Melasti ceremony prayer at Petitenget beach in Kuta on the island of Bali on Tuesday. Melasti is a purification festival which is held three days before Nyepi, a day of silence. During the Nyepi day, Hindus on Bali are not allowed to work, travel or take part in any indulgence. SONNY TUMBELAKA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Hunting. Humane society slams federal seal quota as 'reckless'

Conservation groups say the federal fisheries department is acting "recklessly" by setting an annual harp seal quota of 400,000 animals at a time when markets are drying up and the population is suffering.

Rebecca Aldworth of the Humane Society International said Fisheries Minister Keith Ashfield is ignoring scientific advice that the quota should be lowered this year because of poor ice conditions and declining stock.

On Tuesday, the department's website listed this year's annual harp seal total allowable catch at 400,000, which is the same as last year.

"This is a reckless quota," Aldworth said in an interview from Montreal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The hunt

"To us, it's clear DFO is not acting according to conservation principles, but rather to promote the political agendas of the politicians involved."

Rebecca Aldworth, Humane Society International

Royal stamps

Stamp exhibition for Queen opens

The Canadian Postal Museum is marking Queen Elizabeth's diamond jubilee with an exhibition of more than 600 stamps issued since 1952 that bear her likeness. The exhibition runs until October.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Walmart

Pleads guilty to workplace safety

Walmart pleaded guilty to three workplace safety charges in the death of a teenage worker, 17-year old Patrick Desjardins, in New Brunswick last year. He was electrocuted while using a floor buffer on a wet floor. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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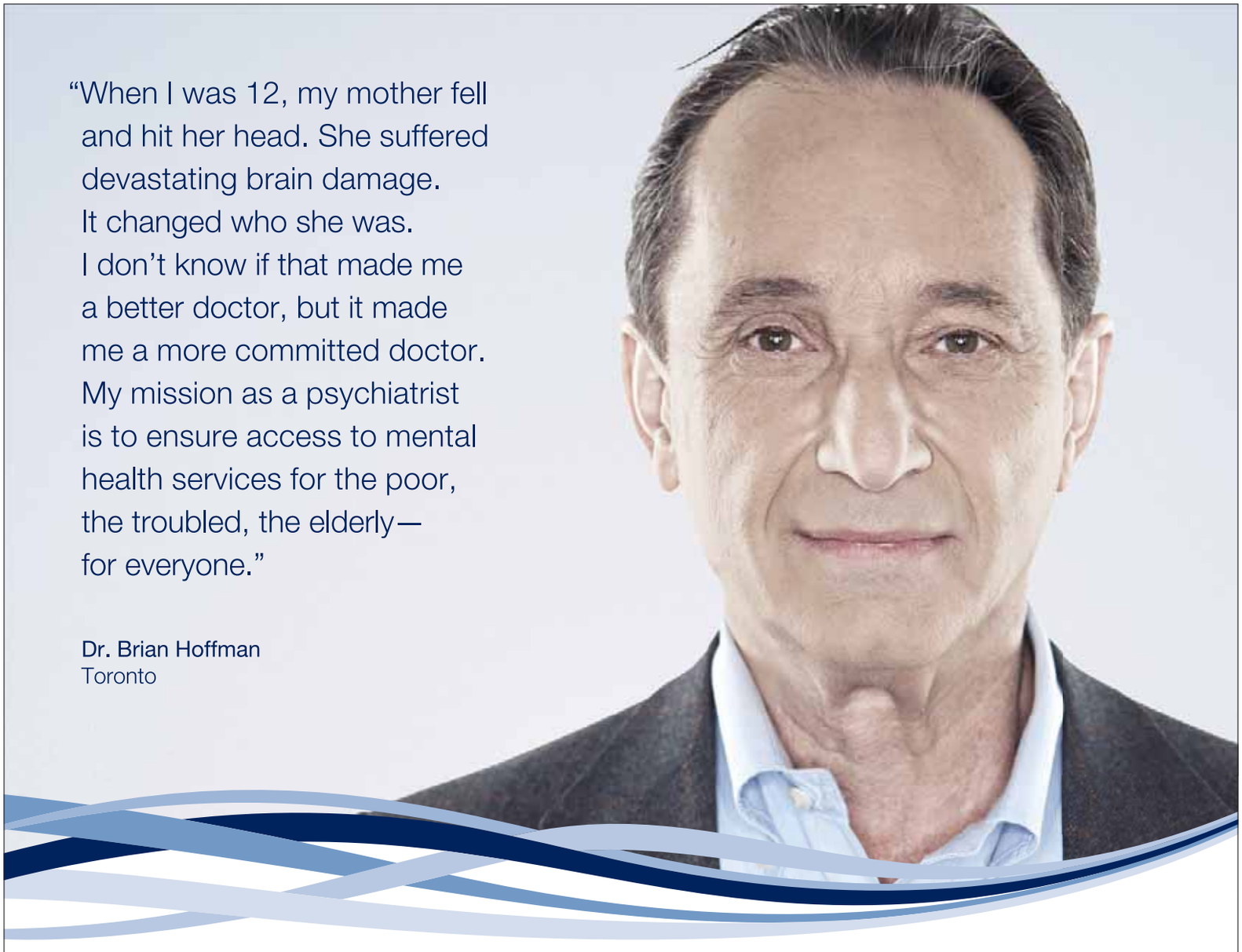

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‘Hard, strong, long’ quake rattles Mexico

Panic in the streets. 7.4-magnitude tremblor topples 60 homes and damages 800 more, but there appear to have been no casualties

A 7.4-magnitude earthquake hit central and southern Mexico on Tuesday, damaging some 800 homes near the epicentre and causing tall buildings to sway hundreds of kilometres away in the capital of Mexico City.

One of the strongest to shake Mexico since the deadly 1985 temblor that killed thousands in Mexico City, the quake hit hardest in the border area of southern Oaxaca and Guerrero states, where Guerrero officials confirmed that about 800 homes had been damaged, and another 60 collapsed.

Hours after the shaking, there were still no reports of death or serious injury, even after a less powerful, magnitude-5.1 aftershock was felt in the capital and several other aftershocks near the epicentre in a mountainous rural region.

“It was very strong, very substantial,” said Campos Benitez, hospital director in Ometepec, about 25 kilometres from the epicentre.

In Mexico City, frightened workers and residents poured into the streets. Telephone service was down and some neighbourhoods were without power. A pedestrian bridge collapsed on an empty transit bus.

About 40 passengers were stranded for a short time on the Mexico City airport air train, but later released. Officials said there was no runway damage at the airport.

Samantha Rodriguez, 37, an environmental consultant, was evacuated from the 11th floor on the Angel Tower office building. “I thought it was going to pass rapidly but the walls began to thunder and we decided to get out,” she said.

In Huajuapan, Guerrero, near the epicentre, hotel manager Marco Antonio Estrada also reported shaken-up guests but no major damage. He said it was the longest and strongest he ever felt. People ran out of their homes and cars.

In Oaxaca, Sylvia Valencia was teaching Spanish to five adult students at the Vinigulaza language school when the earthquake hit.

“Some of us sat down, others ran out,” she said. “It was hard, it was strong and it was long.”

After the shaking stopped, however, she said they found no damage, not in their own classrooms, nor outside in the historical centre of the city, so they went back to class.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quake zone

- **Mexico City.** Built on a lake bed, it was badly damaged in 1985 when an 8.0 earthquake killed at least 10,000 people. In past years, Guerrero has suffered several severe earthquakes, including a 7.9 in 1957, which killed an estimated 68 people, and a 7.4 in 1995 which left three dead.
- **Manzanillo.** A magnitude-8.0 quake near Manzanillo on Mexico’s central Pacific coast killed 51 people in 1995 and a magnitude-7.5 quake killed at least 20 people in the southern state of Oaxaca in 1999.

Unscathed

“It was very strong, but we didn’t see anything fall.”

Irma Ortiz, who owns a guest house in Oaxaca, one of the hardest hit regions

A woman comforts her children outside a school after a 7.4-magnitude earthquake rocked

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Mexico City on Tuesday. ALEXANDRE MENEGHINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Safe. Obama's daughter unharmed on Mexican vacation

U.S. President Barack Obama's oldest daughter, Malia, is safe and in fact never was in danger during Tuesday's earthquake in Mexico, the White House said.

Malia, 13, is on holiday with a school group in Oaxaca in southwestern Mexico. The U.S. Geological Survey says the initial 7.6-magnitude earthquake was felt strongly in Oaxaca. The quake was followed by an aftershock that shook southern Mexico, swayed buildings in Mexico City and sent panicked residents into the streets.

Typically the White House does not comment on the Obama children, but made an exception because of the quake. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Malia Obama is safe and sound. CAROLYN KASTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Mexico City on Tuesday. ALEXANDRE MENEGHINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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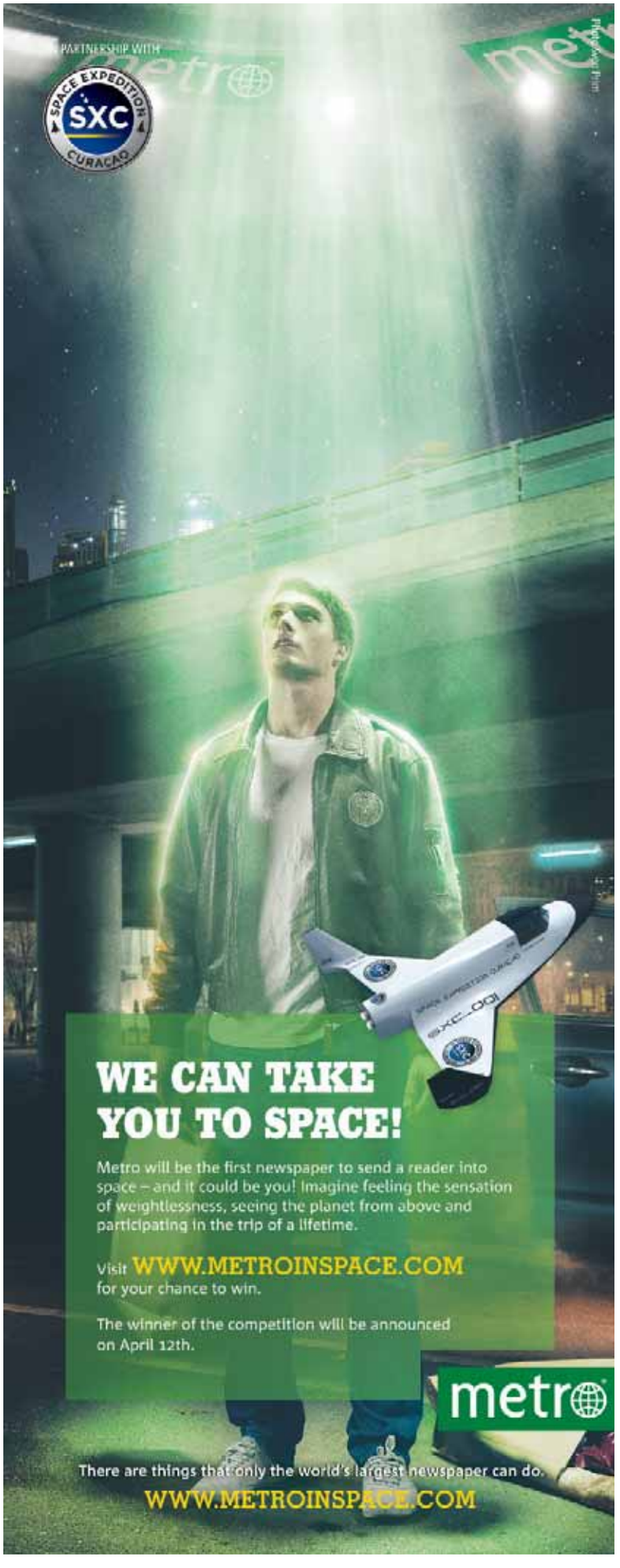
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Ex-beauty queen in trouble over prescription pills

New York. Anna Malova was crowned Miss Russia in the '90s

Anna Malova
LOUIS LANZANO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Prosecutors say a former Miss Russia has been hoarding pills to try to get high while in court-ordered drug treatment.

A New York City judge said Tuesday that Anna Malova can stay in a residential rehabilitation program for now. But she may have to go to trial if she gets another bad behaviour report at a May 1 court date.

Defence lawyer Robert Gottlieb says Malova is "struggling with her drug illness" but understands her situation.

The city's Special Narcotics Prosecutor's office has charged Malova with forging prescriptions to get painkillers. Under the current plan, she can get the case dismissed if she successfully completes 18 months in treatment.

Trained as a doctor, Malova was Miss Russia and finished in the top 10 in the Miss Universe pageant in 1998.

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New clue found in Amelia Earhart case

Mystery. Photo may be the 'smoking gun' in new search for missing plane

A new clue in one of the 20th century's most enduring mysteries could uncover the fate of American aviator Amelia Earhart, who went missing without a trace over the South Pacific 75 years ago, investigators said Tuesday.

Enhanced analysis of a photograph taken just months after Earhart's plane vanished shows what experts think may be its landing gear protruding from the waters off the remote island of Nikumaroro, in what is now the Pacific nation of Kiribati, they said.

Armed with that analysis by the State Department, historians, scientists and salvagers from The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery, are returning to the island in July in the hope of finding the wreckage of Earhart's plane and perhaps even the remains of the pilot and her navigator, Fred Noonan.

Ric Gillespie, executive director of the group, acknowledged that the evidence was "circumstantial" but "strong". The new search is scheduled to last for 10 days in July and will use state-of-the-art underwater robotic submarines and mapping equipment.

"The most important thing is not whether we find the ultimate answer or what we find, it is the way we look," he said. "We see this opportunity to explore ... the last great American mystery of the 20th century as a vehicle for demonstrating how to go about figuring out what is true."

Earhart and Noonan disappeared July 2, 1937, while flying from New Guinea to Howland Island as part of her attempt to become the first female pilot to circumnavigate the globe.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Amelia Earhart with her bi-plane called "Friendship" in Newfoundland, June 1928. The fate of Earhart, who vanished without a trace 75 years ago, is one of the enduring mysteries of the 20th century. GETTY IMAGES

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TICO

People gather near a school bus that fell into a pond near the small town of Raghavpuram, about 250 kilometres west of Hyderabad, India, on Tuesday, killing at least 14 schoolchildren. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Schoolchildren killed in bus crash

Accident. Driver lost control after swerving to avoid collision with motorcycle, police in Indian state said

A speeding bus veered off the road and fell into a pond Tuesday, killing at least 14 schoolchildren near Raghavpuram town in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.

Police and volunteers rescued some of the children from the bus, which was partly submerged. There were at least 40 children in the bus when it crashed about 250 kilometres east of the state capital, Hyderabad, police said. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Road deaths

- **Deadly record.** India has the world's highest road-death toll, with more than 110,000 people dying each year in accidents commonly caused by speeding, overcrowding and poor vehicle and road maintenance, police say.

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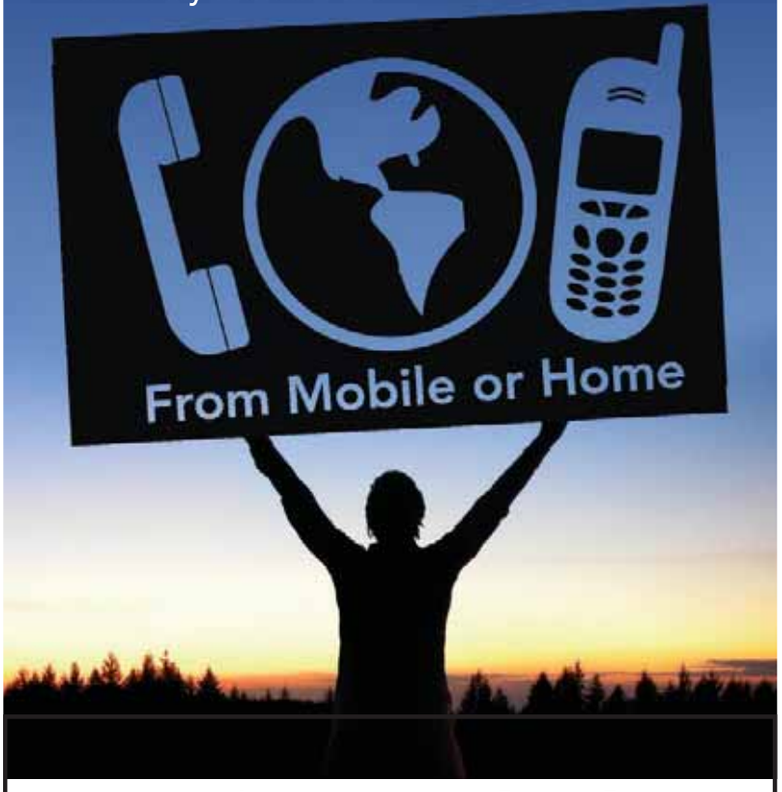

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Real estate. Condo sales dip in lull before spring

Condo sales declined 59 per cent across the GTA in February, as builders sold remaining inventory from last year and geared up to launch new projects for spring.

That saw the sale of new single-family homes outpace highrise sales for the second month, according to RealNet Canada figures released Tuesday by the Building Industry and Land Development Assoc.

While condo prices increased just two per cent in February over the same month a year ago, new home buyers were faced with a 10 per cent increase, largely because of delays in building approvals and development charges, said BILD's Joe Vaccaro. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

GTA sales

- **Condos.** 913 condos sold in February, down from 2,226 a year earlier.
- **Homes.** 1,666 low rise properties sold last month, up 16.2 per cent from 1,434 homes in February, 2011.

Market Moment

DOLLAR
100.83 cents US
(–0.44¢)

TSX 12,430.70 (– 48.99)

OIL $105.61 (– $2.48)

GOLD $1,647 (– $20.30)

Natural gas: $2.335 (– 1.6¢)
Euro: $1.3114 (+ 0.42¢)

Aveos ceases operations

A police officer removes debris to let Air Canada employees get past laid-off Aveos Fleet Performance workers in front of the aircraft maintenance company's plant Tuesday in Montreal. The company said Tuesday it was ceasing all operations, terminating the employment of all 2,600 employees across the country. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SCARY LIT RAISES SPECTRE OF GORE-STOKED GENERATION

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/justsaying

Now that my own children are grown and there's nothing I can do about them, it's time to start worrying about the next generation.

After all, they're the ones who are going to find me in my single room buried under mouldy Starbucks venti lattes and ship me off to the state geezer preserve.

And if what they're up to right now is any indication, I have no reason to expect compassion.

I started thinking about the next generation after hearing that Judy Blume's novels are about to be turned into ebooks. And publishers are worried that today's kids, raised on a steady diet of vampires, human sacrifice and Grand Theft Auto, will find her books bland and boring.

This was once the most banned author in North America, whose most banned book (Forever) opened with the following line: "Sybil Davison has a genius I.Q. and has been laid by at least six different guys."

That got you banned in 1975, but these days it's so tame that even the censors can't work up enough jam to read it, even if they can download it instantly.

'Blood and sacrifice'

"These days, you have to add blood and sacrifice for kids to stop sexting and virtually stoning each other on Am I Ugly and read instead."

These days, you have to add blood and sacrifice for kids to stop sexting and virtually stoning each other on Am I Ugly and read instead. The average teenager sends 60 text messages a day and spends more than seven hours a day "using" media, 80 per cent of it social media.

When Judy Blume was freaking out parents and librarians, there was no Internet. You had to look into a mirror to find out if you were ugly. Now you post a photo on the Internet and let the world have its way with you.

So what are we raising? Pretty little bloodthirsty, depraved, techno-robotic, Borg-minded, crypto-fascist, superstitious sociopaths? Maybe.

At least they can help you unlock your cellphone.

When my kids were young, the biggest threat to their mental health was V.C. Andrews, who dealt in incest and various forms of abuse. Plus she was a terrible writer. By comparison, Judy Blume was Shakespeare. Of course, nobody reads him anymore either, not as long as we have Suzanne Collins (The Hunger Games) or Stephanie Meyer (Twilight).

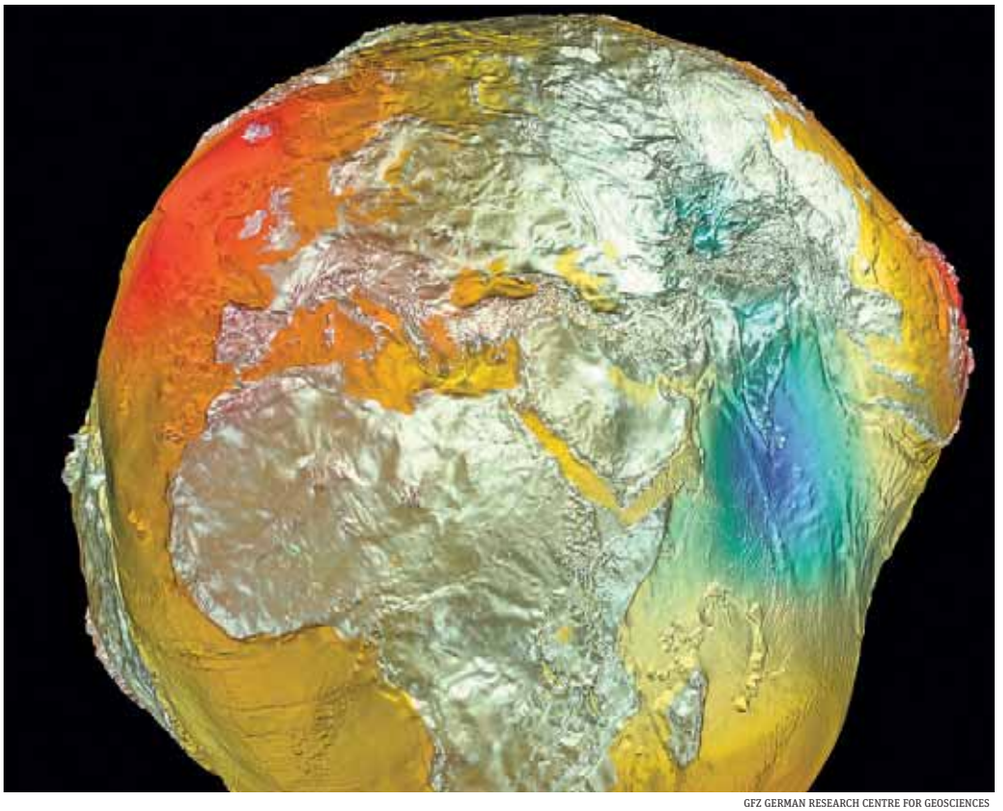
Today, "writing" is a kind of delivery mechanism, like a syringe or a hand-held rocket launcher. Ideas are no longer than 140 characters and something gets killed at the end.

For those who still remember, it's like Brave New World meets Lord of the Flies.

With zombies.

Jennifer Lawrence portrays Katniss Everdeen in a scene from The Hunger Games based on Suzanne Collins' novel. MURRAY CLOSE/LIONSGATE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Planet 'potato' down to earth



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3-D mapping

Map shows how Earth changes

For most of us, our planet is spherical in shape, but for some German geoscientists tracking planetary changes, it looks like a potato. Based on data from NASA satellites, the "Potsdam Gravity Potato" is a 3-D mapping that reveals how melting ice has changed Earth's gravity. MWN

Gravity field

"When the mass of Greenland's ice sheet changes, so does the gravity there. Gravity field measurements give us information on mass changes, including climate-related ones."

Frank Flechtner, expert from GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences

Geoscience

'Potato' based on Newton's law

"This is not a gimmick," the Potsdam-based scientists say. The "Gravity Potato," first developed in 1995, is based on one of Newton's laws that states an object's gravity depends on its mass. Earth's uneven distribution of mass means varying gravitational pull on the surface. MWN

This year's 'potato'

The bulge rises in Japan

- The bulge in Far East Asia shows the dramatic changes in solid earth as a result of Japan's earthquakes in 2011.

Loss of ice mass = sea rise

- Greenland's ice shield had 240 gigatons of mass loss between 2002 and 2011, corresponding to a sea level rise of 0.7 mm per year.

Metropolitan Panel

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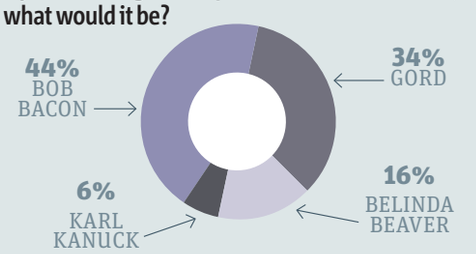
If you were to get a cellphone under a fake name, what would it be?



Twitter

@gerrydee
Graham James gets two years? Who are the scumbag lawyers defending this criminal who will be high fiving each other at their "victory"?

@PaulBromby
Plaxico Burress got 2 years in jail for shooting himself in the leg... same sentence for Graham James.. Think about that

@KellyHrudey
Just not right. Only 2 years for Graham James. He ruined lives!!!! I was hoping for so much more from the Judge.

@alzao3
This obviously a #toronto divided on #TTC transit. Somehow I fear or feel we are going down a path we will regret 20+ yrs from now #topoli

@WeLoveDara
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2
SCENE

Virgin space travellers

Kutcher signs up

Richard Branson says his venture to launch paying tourists into space has netted its 500th customer, and it's none other than Ashton Kutcher. Branson made the announcement on his blog Monday. He called the actor to congratulate him and said Kutcher is thrilled at the prospect of being among the first to cross "the final frontier" aboard Virgin Galactic.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Kevin Costner's lawyers tell SD high court actor did not breach contract with sculpture artist

'Not your everyday villain'

Alexander Ludwig is photographed by fans as he arrives on the red carpet for the premiere of The Hunger Games on Monday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Golden boy. New on the scene, Alexander Ludwig says fans don't mind he plays a trained killer in The Hunger Games

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

At six-feet, two-inches with all-American good looks (even though he was born in Vancouver), Alexander Ludwig doesn't look like a super villain. But to fans of The Hunger Games he is the baddest baddie of them all, Cato, the brute from District 2.

"He was born and raised a killer and that's all he knew how to do," says the 20-year-old actor.

"But he's not your everyday villain. There's a lot more substance and depth to this guy. You can tell he's had a tortured life."

Trained as a killer, Cato has spent his whole life preparing for his turn in The Hunger Games, a kind of murderous reality show.

"I'm playing the most feared guy in the arena so I didn't know how I was going to be received by everyone else in the cast," he says of his co-stars Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson. "I was cautious about it, but everyone was amazing."

One thing is for sure; he made an impression on one stunt man.

"I hit a stunt guy across the face with the butt end of a rubber bat when I was filming," he says, "but once you do that you have keep going because they're going to kick your ass if you don't. 'What are you doing? That was the perfect sell because you actually hit me.' I felt so bad."

He says that despite the movie's dark subject matter and the odd bruised stunt man, the mood on set was light.

"It is important to have contrast when the material is so dark. There's all this tense energy and right after they yell, 'Cut' you can breathe."

He's also breathing a little easier now the movie is done and fans have embraced him.

"I have been so, so happy about the way I have been received because it could go either way," he says.

"Everyone's been very excited to see me and meet me. No one has said, 'Screw you, Cato!' I hope it stays like this. Everyone likes being liked and I chose this role knowing that it could go the other way."

"I'm just riding this crazy experience. You really can't think about it because you don't know what to expect. Every day is a new experience.

I walked out of my hotel room this morning and there were fans outside. I can't believe this is happening to me. It's wild."

If looks could kill

"Everyone's been very excited to see me and meet me. No one has said, 'Screw you, Cato!' I hope it stays like this. Everyone likes being liked and I chose this role knowing that it could go the other way."

Actor Alexander Ludwig,
on playing the evil Cato in The Hunger Games.

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‘Every man for himself’ makes for great films

Hungry for blood. Why do we love movies about people forced to hunt and kill each other?

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Elizabeth Banks, left, and Jennifer Lawrence star in The Hunger Games. HANDOUT

If you’ve read The Hunger Games novels, you’re likely excited about the big screen adaptation hitting theatres this Friday. The story of a dystopian world where children killing children is a national pastime — think American Idol, only with knives — was a mega-hit in book stores and promises to pack theatres.

But if the movie lineups are enough to keep you away from the theatre on Saturday night, here are some similar themed movies to get you in the mood.

Battle Royale is the ultra-violent Japanese cousin to The Hunger Games.

The movie is a futuristic nightmare about a group of kids who are shipped off to a remote island and forced to wage war against one another until only one remains.

The film’s bloody conflict enraged the Japanese censors who tried to ban the movie, but their plan backfired. Slapping a tough R15 rating on the film only increased people’s desire to see it. “Because it was forbidden,” says director Kinji Fukasaku, “they wanted to watch it even more.”

Also breathing the same air is Series 7: The Contenders, a parody of reality television where contestants hunt down and murder one another. This gory satire won a passing grade from Roger Ebert who said, “It’s not the idea that people will kill each other for entertainment that makes Series 7 jolting. What the movie correctly perceives is that somewhere along the line we’ve lost all sense of shame in our society.”

The idea of televising human blood sports isn’t new to the reality TV era, however. Years before Survivor made the phrase, “You’ve been voted off the island” a household term, Steven King and Arnold Schwarzenegger unleashed The Running Man on audiences.

Arnold plays a wrongly convicted man fighting for his survival on a TV game show, overseen by Family Feud host Richard Dawson.

“I’ll be back!” Arnold says, mimicking his Terminator catchphrase. “Only in a rerun,” says Dawson, who hopes Arnold bites it and gives the show a spike in ratings.

Finally, director Norman Jewison imagined a theme similar to The Hunger Games in his 1975 film Rollerball.

Set in 2018, it’s about a deadly sport that combines roller derby, hockey, football and a generous helping of violence.

The movie’s style seems a bit dated but the ideas aren’t. Jewisons’ prophetic take on violence, the influence of corporations and the state of entertainment are bang on.

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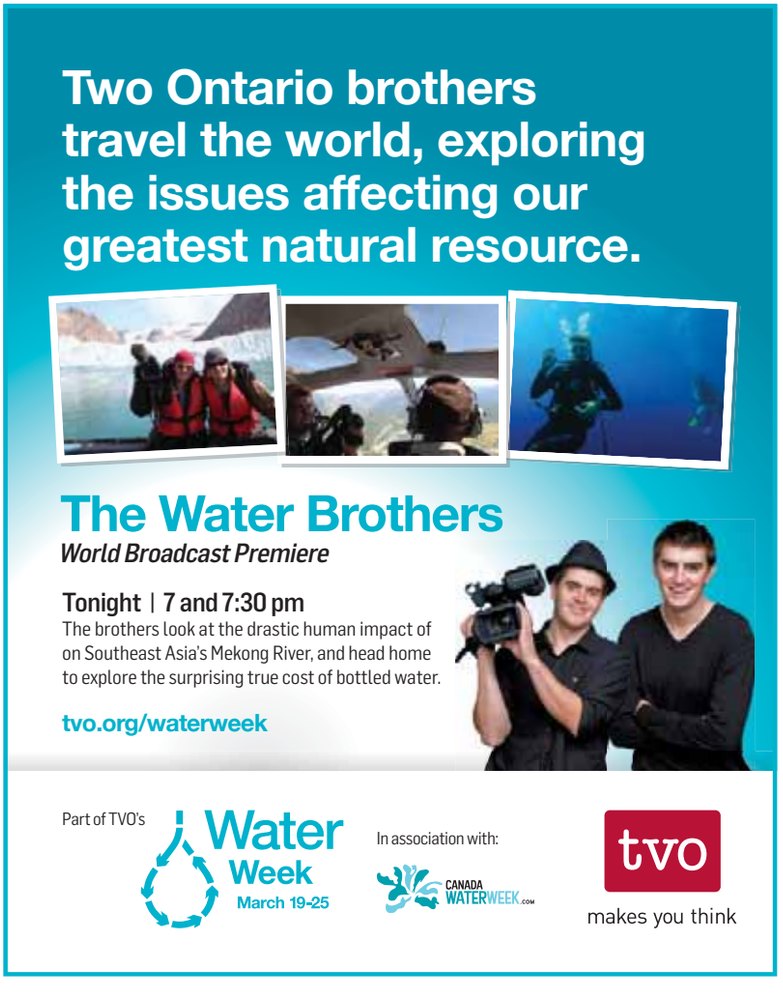
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Stage notes

Canada capturing the centre stage

JONATHAN NAYMARK
sceneopolis.com

The Toronto Dance Theatre's (TDT) latest work, Rivers, is contemporary Canadiana at its most innovative.

Combining a legendary Canadian musical icon with some of the best dancers, choreographers and musicians in Canada today, Rivers is a remarkable evening of modern dance.

Set to the 1978 work Rivers, by the late great Canadian composer Ann Southam the Toronto Dance Theatre blends Southam's minimalist lyrical style with their own contemporary choreography as imagined by artistic director Christopher House.

Patrons further get to enjoy Southam's music as performed by noted pianist Christina Petrowska-Quilico.

Rivers opens on April 25 at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre.

While Rivers is one aspect of contemporary Canadian culture, the Factory Theatre's Toronto-premiere of Anosh Inari's latest work: My Granny the Goldfish, may be the other extreme of Canadian culture in the twenty-first century.

A hilarious "fish out of water" story, Inari's play is about the hospitalized Nico whose grandmother travels from Bombay to Vancouver to help him heal.

Nico's grandmother is a practitioner of neither western nor eastern medicine instead choosing to rely on the power of a whiskey flask and caustic humour as cure's for what ails us.

A clash of cultures that will appeal to many Torontonians My Granny the Goldfish opened on March 17 and is on until April 15 at Toronto's Factory Theatre.

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Keeping it in the family

Sisters & Brothers kept the process loose. Filmmaker Carl Bessai allows his actors to control the dialogue through improvisation

IAN GORMERLY
scene@metronews.ca

Sisters & Brothers allowed its actors to improvise where they saw fit. HANDOUT

Even if she wasn't in it, it's a good bet that Gabrielle Miller would still be lining up to see filmmaker Carl Bessai's latest flick, Sisters & Brothers.

A huge fan of the director's previous films, Mothers & Daughters and Fathers & Sons, the actress was eager to take part in this latest — and most likely final — instalment of his family relationship trilogy.

"He phoned, and said 'I don't know if you know how my films work...' and I'm sitting their thinking, 'I wonder if he's going to ask me to help out with locations, if he wants to use my house...'" she says laughing, "and I'm thinking 'Get to the point!'"

Bessai's films, she says, tell a story so that viewers can really connect with the characters.

"He had a way of bringing a lot of humour and all the complicated stuff that comes with being part of a family."

Like previous instalments, Sisters & Brothers is made up of interweaving narratives. And while Bessai provides the broad strokes of the story's arc, his actors hash out their character's relationships through improvisation.

"It's an exciting process," says Miller. "It's incredibly freeing and challenging."

To prepare, Miller would sit down with Bessai and any other actor who happened to be in the scene to workshop each interaction and flesh out their characters.

When filming starts, the plot points are sorted, but the rest remains improvised.

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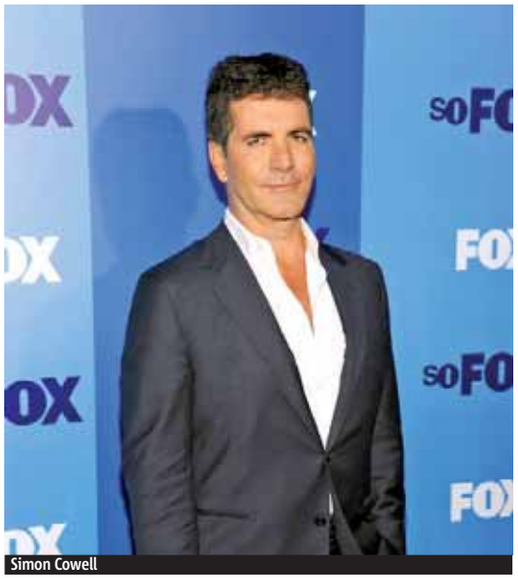


Simon Cowell

Cowell considering killing off X Factor if ratings continue to dip

Despite all the rumors about negotiating with Britney Spears to come on board as a judge, Simon Cowell may have altogether different plans for the U.S. edition of the X Factor — and they involve cancelling the show altogether.

"I'd rather fall off the cliff on numbers than deteriorate slowly," Cowell said at a press conference for the launch of another season of Britain's Got Talent.

"We have something in development, which could replace The X Factor."

Quote

"I'd rather fall off the cliff on numbers than deteriorate slowly."

Simon Cowell
speaking about X-Factor's ratings.

Lindsay Lohan

Lindsay Lohan putting herself on house arrest to avoid new problems

Lindsay Lohan is taking the "better safe than sorry" approach and is reportedly putting herself under house arrest for the remainder of her probation, according to TMZ.

It's not a terribly long self-imposed sentence, though, as Lohan's probation is set to end March 29, but sources tell the website that the troubled actress is planning to only leave her house to go to her community service assignment at the morgue.

The Word

Is Kim Zolciak jacking Jessica Simpson's swagger?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Kim Zolciak must be getting tired of Jessica Simpson stealing the blond-weave-wearing-pregnant-lady spotlight, as it was announced yesterday that she and husband Kroy Biermann, 26, are wasting no time expanding their family. After giving birth to their son, Kroy Jagger (KJ) Jr., last May, Life & Style is exclusively reporting that the couple is expecting their second baby.

"Kroy and I are so excited," Kim, 33, tells the magazine. "To decide we wanted to get pregnant again and have it happen so quickly was such a blessing."

I'd go all conspiracy theorist on you and say Kim and Kroy (ed note: What the hell kind of name is "Kroy"? Is that a mash-up of "Kyle" and "Troy"?) are just now revealing this news to bring attention to the TV special about their lavish November wedding, Don't Be Tardy for the Wedding, which premieres on April 26 at 9 p.m. on Bravo.

But, come on: anyone who films their wedding for reality TV and then calls it Don't Be Tardy for the Wedding will of course try to capitalize off of a pregnancy.

There's no conspiracy about it.

Jon Hamm

Hamm at odds with public's perception of his good looks

Jon Hamm finds himself at odds with the rest of the world in thinking that he's handsome.

"I don't necessarily think of myself like the handsome guy. That's reserved for Brad Pitt and Ryan Reynolds and those guys," the Mad Men star tells Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

"It's certainly nice when people say nice things about you, don't get me wrong. I guess I never really thought of myself that way."

Goldie Hawn

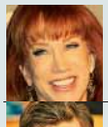
Goldie Hawn denies saying Hudson married rock star boyfriend

Goldie Hawn set off a rash of speculation that daughter Kate Hudson had already secretly wed fiancé Matt Bellamy when she told ES magazine,

"When my daughter Kate married an English rock star it didn't worry me."

But Hawn doesn't stand by the quote. When a Twitter follower asked her, "So are Kate and Matt really married, or are the press twisting your words?" Hawn responded, "Darling, once again twisted the words. They aren't married."

Twitter



@kathygriffin
Larry the dog got out & was missing ALL DAY! Got a call & WHO rescued him? @KalPenn! #Random #grateful

@chriscolfer
My goldfish have love handles. I may be over feeding them...

@diablocody
Currently watching a dad TIE his daughter to a piece of playground equipment so she can't fall off. He's using police tape, which makes it extra weird.

@AlbertBrooks
If it walks like a duck, looks like a duck, quacks like a duck, it still could be a chicken doing impressions.

3 LIFE

Travel in brief

No free music at festival

After three years of financial losses, the showcase summer festival Taste of Chicago will start charging music fans if they want concert seats. Taste of Chicago performances at the 3,000-seat Petrillo Music Shell in Grant Park had been free, but the city wants to charge $25 a ticket this year, Mayor Rahm Emanuel said Wednesday.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Edgar Degas' Impressionism stripped bare in Paris: forget dancers, this time its nudes.

Exhibit helps MythBusters take their show on the road

Museum. Discovery Channel program creates a science-based exhibit at a museum in Chicago, with plans to tour the showcase

If you go...

- **Mythbusters.** Through Sept. 3 at Museum of Science and Industry, 57th Street and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago; msichicago.org or 773-684-1414. Open daily 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Timed ticketing; adults, $25, children 3-11, $18 (general admission plus $10).

Who gets wetter, someone walking in the rain or running? Is it really possible to hang from a cliff by your fingers until help arrives like they do in the movies? And is Superman the only one who is faster than a speeding bullet?

Those are questions the Discovery Channel's MythBusters has asked for years, and starting last week, anybody who's wondered how long it takes to put on a superhero outfit in a phone booth — don't forget the cape — can answer them for themselves at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry.

MythBusters: The Explosive Exhibition, opened March 15, marking the first time the show has taken such questions on the road. The Chicago exhibition, which runs through Sept. 3, is the first of a planned national tour that will include stops at several other U.S. cities.

"This has both the science and also a sense of humour, what we've been doing for a decade," Adam Savage, one of the show's hosts, said this week before the exhibition opened.

Just like on the show, the exhibit is a kind of scientific bait and switch. It starts with something visitors have seen in the movies or on TV or that they can recall from their own experiences.

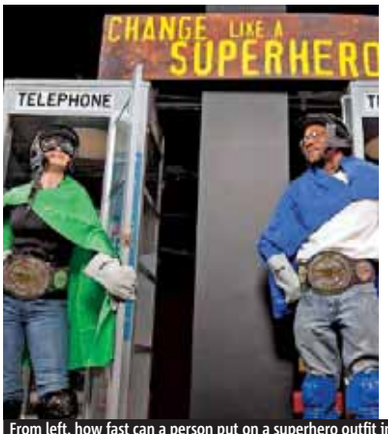
"That's the hook," said Jamie Hyneman, also a MythBusters co-host. "That gets them involved and before they know what happens they've actually learned something or been lured into thinking carefully about what's going on."

The exhibit consists of about a dozen stations mixed in with props familiar to viewers, like the actual casket Hyneman lay in for a segment on being buried alive. In one station shaped like a ship cargo container, a visitor walks and another runs while water drips from hoses above. Once they're wet, they go around the corner and, because the water contains traces of fluorescent dye, they can see just how many drops hit them as they stand in front of a black light.

After determining which one of them is wetter, the participants press either the run or walk button. The results will be stored for now and revealed when the show leaves in September.

There is another exhibit for anyone who's wondered if a blind Al Pacino really could have navigated a car through the streets of New York in Scent of a Woman based on the directions given by a terrified Chris O'Donnell from the passenger seat. With the help of video-arcade style equipment, visitors can see if they do as well as Pacino or better than Hyneman and Savage did on the show.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jamie Hyneman, left, and Adam Savage, stars of Mythbusters, stand outside the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. J.B. SPECTOR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



From left, how fast can a person put on a superhero outfit in a phone booth? The Mythbusters open the exhibit in Chicago last week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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First time?

Go exploring!

Take a stroll around the area you're staying in and see where you end up. Stop for breakfast at the nearest café and then go shopping along Laugavegur Street. Grab some lunch at the harbour by taking your pick from one of the small local restaurants, where food is always cooked with passion. Laugardalslaug geothermal pool (Sundlaugarvegur,105 Reykjavik) is the perfect way to spend the afternoon. Their facilities include saunas and a mini golf course. Paddling in hot water may make you feel drowsy, so head back to your hotel for a nap.

Laugardalslaug geothermal pool
METRO WORLD NEWS

Been there before?

Get out of town

Rent a car and get out of town. Before you leave, buy what you need to make a picnic at Ostabudin delicatessen that sells amazing bread and cheese (ostabudin.is). It's so much more enjoyable than having to stop at a gas station for lunch. If you're here during the summer, spend the night in Thórsmörk, a mountain ridge surrounded by glaciers and rivers. The Glacier Rivers will stop you from driving all the way there but there's a good bus service that covers the last stretch. This is where the famous volcano erupted in April 2010.

Nothing is as relaxing as a quiet stroll around some water.
METRO WORLD

Relax in Reykjavik — the way fashionable people do it

Iceland. Snow and ice might come to mind when thinking of the capital of this Nordic island, but there's plenty more than that

Designer duo and couple Magni Thorsteinsson and Hugrun Arnadottir own Reykjavik's coolest fashion concept store Kronkron. They allow us to experience their "small" city in a big way with a tour of the best places in the city to eat, shop, stay and go out.

According to the couple: Reykjavik is small but as we all know, size doesn't matter. The vibe here is so energetic, everyone is so bubbly. Visitors who have come on holiday to relax will love our outdoor geothermic pools. They are open all year round, whether it's a freezing minus 10 or balmy 15 degrees Celsius. After relaxing in one of those geothermic pools, you might want to have a sumptuous meal or take a nap in a comfortable room. Luckily, Reykjavik offers great choices for both options.

METRO

Eat

Surf and turf

Try Grillmarkadurinn (grillmarkadurinn.is). While the ambitious fusion menu focuses on meat, there are plenty of other options. Order the Big Steak and crispy potatoes. Or head to Sjavargrillid (sjavargrillid.is). As the sister restaurant to Grill Markadurinn, the specialty here is fish. The best item on the menu is the three course lobster feast.

A dish at Sjavargrillid.
METRO WORLD NEWS

Magni and Hugrun in their store Kronkron. METRO WORLD NEWS

Shopping

Shoe fetish?

The best area to shop is Hljomskalagardur. If you're a shoe addict, go to Kron (kronkron.com), whose selection is amazing. If you want to spoil yourself go to the concept store Kronkron (kronbykronkron.com) where you'll find a selection of brands including Vivienne Westwood, Sonia Rykiel, Marc by Marc Jacobs and Acne.

Enter shoe heaven in Kronkron.
METRO WORLD NEWS

Postcards from the planet

Dubai, U.A.E.

WATCH AND LEARN MORE ABOUT HEATHER'S FAMILY ADVENTURE AND TRAVEL TIPS AT WHERE PARENTSTALK.COM

March 17, 2012

For 10 days we chased excitement and we weren't disappointed. Together we tackled waterparks with sky-high slides, bumped along on desert safaris and marvelled at the impossible architecture across this emirate. Our last night was quieter; a chance to soak it in one last time. We opted for an early dinner that celebrated the skyline and took a seat above the world's largest dancing fountain next to the world's tallest tower. We leaned back but the boys jumped up and celebrated every magnificent blast of water.

Top cruises to get you in the mood for summer

Here are some trips you might want to try as winter nears its end

SAM CASTONE, METRO WORLD NEWS

Disney Cruise Lines

Disney knows how to put on a show and keep your kids busy, two qualities most adults look for in a cruise. This month, their brand new Disney Fantasy sets sail, the company's fourth cruise liner, a 130,000 ton vessel with 14 decks, carrying up to 4,000 passengers (and cast members). Inside are 3D movies, rides and a

Crystal Cruises

Rated the world's best large cruise line by Travel + Leisure readers, this mega-company just announced they've opened bookings for 2014, with savings up to $2,000 for early birds (book before April for 2012 and you can save $200). Destinations include what the company calls the "less-cruised," such as Burma, Ghana and Tonga, as well as Tokyo, Jakarta and parts of Indonesia

Norwegian Cruises

This cruise line has options under $1,300. We like the Norwegian Jade's seven-nighter from Venice to the islands of Greece. Maine because, come on: The Greek islands! It runs from April to October.

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Jamaica $2
Travel Mar 22 - Mar 29/ts + taxes & fees $197

Puerto Vallarta $2
Travel Mar 31 - Apr 7/c6 + taxes & fees $197

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Travel Mar 29 - Apr 6/ts + taxes & fees $284

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Travel Mar 27 - Apr 8/ts + taxes & fees $581

Miami $198
Travel Jun 20 - Jun 27/ws + taxes & fees $126

New York $198
Travel Jun 28 - Jul 4/ws + taxes & fees $127

Las Vegas $199
Travel Apr 8 - Apr 12/wg + taxes & fees $189

Barcelona $219
Travel Apr 21 - Apr 29/ts + taxes & fees $474

All-inclusive Vacations

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Catalonia Bavaro Beach Resort + taxes & fees $388
Departs Apr 2/nol/c6.

San Salvador 7 Nights 4-Star $297
Royal Decameron Salinitas + taxes & fees $317
Departs Mar 26/nol/c6.

Puerto Plata 7 Nights 4-Star $357
Grand Paradise Playa Dorada + taxes & fees $388
Departs Apr 3/nol/c6.

Varadero 7 Nights 4-Star $375
Mercure Playa de Oro + taxes & fees $290
Departs Apr 10/swg/wg.

Ixtapa 7 Nights 4.5-Star $398
Azul Ixtapa Convention Center & Beach Resort + taxes & fees $347
Departs Mar 27/vat/c6.

Cancun 7 Nights 4-Star $427
Grand Oasis Palm + taxes & fees $346
Departs Mar 125/nol/ts.

Jamaica 7 Nights 4-Star $437
Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort + taxes & fees $359
Departs Mar 22/nol/ts.

Riviera Maya 7 Nights 4.5-Star $440
Grand Sirenis Riviera Maya + taxes & fees $347
Departs Mar 27/nol/c6.

Canada & USA

Las Vegas Air + 4 Nights $295
Bally's Las Vegas + taxes & fees $210
INCLUDES 3.5-star accom on the Strip. Departs Apr 8/swg/wg. UPGRADE to 4.5-star MGM Grand Hotel & Casino for $15 per night. ADD Vegas Passport Ultimate Club Hopping pass for $130.

Niagara Falls Family Special, 2 Nights $44◊
Crowne Plaza Niagara Falls taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom attached to an indoor waterpark. Price per person based on family of 4. Travel Mar 28/ggv. UPGRADE to 4-star Four Points by Sheraton for $6 per night. BOOK this package based on double occupancy for $90.

Orlando Family Special
Air + 7 Nights $129◊
Orlando Continental Plaza + taxes & fees $308
INCLUDES accom near theme parks. Price per person based on family of 4. Departs Apr 27/swg/wg. UPGRADE to 4-star Radisson Resort Orlando for $17 per night. ADD 3-day Universal Park to Park Pass for $142/adult, $130/child (ages 3-9). BOOK this package based on double occupancy for $405.

New York City Air + 3 Nights 4-Star $649
Soho Grand Hotel + taxes & fees $127
INCLUDES Manhattan accom in the trendy SoHo area. BONUS daily breakfast and complimentary bike rental included. Departs Jun 19/ggv/ws. ADD Empire State Building for $21.

Cruise & Stay

Orlando
Air + 4-Night Cruise + 3 Nights $499
Carnival Sensation, Champions World Resort + taxes & fees $351
INCLUDES airfare to Orlando, 3 nights accom near entertainment and shopping and 4-night cruise sailing roundtrip Port Canaveral visiting Nassau and Freeport. BONUS complimentary shuttle to *Walt Disney World* Theme Parks, Sea World and Universal Studios included. Departs Apr 29/ggv/ccl/ts. UPGRADE to oceanview stateroom and 4-star Wyndham Orlando Resort for $29 per night.

5-Star Vacations

Hong Kong Air + 7 Nights 5-Star $1489
Harbour Grand Hong Kong + taxes & fees $387
INCLUDES 5-star accom located at the heart of Hong Kong Island with views of Victoria Harbour and transit access to the MTR. BONUS half-day guided shopping trip included. Departs May 20/ggv/jl.

Abu Dhabi Air + 7 Nights 5-Star $1519
Sheraton Abu Dhabi Hotel and Resort + taxes & fees $585
INCLUDES transfers, luxury 5-star accom on the Abu Dhabi Corniche and full day Oasis Adventure tour. BONUS daily breakfast included. Departs Jun 11, 19/ggv/ua.

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TICO

The bite-sized San Francisco

Food trucks are a big deal in San Francisco, so we got Kate McEachern, founder of local cupcake truck Cupkates, to talk us through her city's hot spots

METRO WORLD NEWS

First time?

For those that usually ignore the clichéd recommendations in travel guides, play the tourist for once. San Francisco has some amazing attractions and you don't want to miss them. Your first stop should be Fort Point. Its vantage point overlooking Golden Gate Bridge offers amazing views.

Been there before?

Once you've seen all of the staple tourist spots, I'd recommend a trip to Golden Gate Park (goldengate-park.com). Go for tea at the Japanese Tea House and Garden or simply walk around the gardens. The California Academy of Sciences (calacademy.org), one of the world's largest natural history museums, is a fun daytime outing whether you're with family or friends. I always head straight to the living roof. Designed by architect Renzo Piano, the roof consists of undulating green hillocks and 1.7 million native plants, mimicking the city's topography.

Go out

If you want a chilled but fun Friday night out then head over to the De Young Museum (deyoung.famsf.org). It stays open late, keeping people entertained with the bar and live music. Bubble Lounge champagne bar (bubblelounge.com) is perfect for a girls' night out. Although, by no means does this mean boys aren't allowed to join the party.

Stay in

For those on a budget, Hotel des Arts, located in the French Quarter, is an eclectic boutique close to Union Square, perfect if you had a day of shopping planned (sfhotel-desarts.com). If you have a bit more to spend, in the mid-range price is Hotel Del Sol. This is a joyful-kid friendly place to stay.

Eat

Some of the city's best food comes from a truck. Off the Grid (offthegridsf.com) is a bustling roving market with gourmet food trucks selling anything from my cupcakes to 'eat curbside's' deep fried Mac n Cheese.

On Friday nights, the Fort Mason market has a bar and music, making it a really great (and super cheap!) way to spend the evening. Nick's Crispy Tacos (at 1500 Broadway) makes the most amazing fried fish pescado tacos (ask for them made "Nick's Way") and carnitas (braised pork) in town.

If you're craving pizza, there's no other place than Una Pizza Napoletana (unapizza.com/sf). The place is small and the owner Anthony Mangieri makes pizza to order using an oven placed in the middle of the dining room.

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A woman looks out the window of the Titanic drawing offices in Belfast. PHOTOS PETER MORRISON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A replica of the famous Titanic staircase is on display at the visitor centre.

A recreation of a first-class cabin at the visitor centre.

Belfast boasts its links to the Titanic with new visitor centre

History. The capital of Northern Ireland kept quiet about manufacturing the ship after it sank, but now it beckons visitors

To most of the world, the name Titanic means tragedy, spiced with romance, sacrifice and luxury. But in Belfast, where it was built, the doomed ship is a triumph of industry, enterprise and engineering.

The city hopes the rest of the world will soon see it that way, too.

Northern Ireland's capital, scarred by 30 years of Catholic-Protestant violence and mired in Europe's economic doldrums, is gambling on a gleaming new Titanic tourist attraction to bring it fame beyond the Troubles — and a renewed sense of civic pride. Tying the city's name to a sinking ship is not, apparently, a problem.

"What happened to the Titanic was a disaster," said Tim Husbands, chief executive of Titanic Belfast, a $160-million-visitor attraction due to open March 31, in advance of the 100th anniversary of the ship's sinking. "But the ship wasn't."

Colin Cobb, a Titanic expert who leads walking tours of the docks and slipways where the great ship was built a century ago, puts it even more succinctly: "Tragedy plus time equals tourism."

Celebrating the ship and its builders is the aim of Titanic Belfast, a shiny new "visitor experience" whose four prow-like wings jut jauntily skyward beside the River Lagan on the site of the former Harland and Wolff shipyard.

Titanic, then the world's largest, most luxurious ocean liner, left this spot on April 2, 1912, eight days before its maiden voyage from England to New York. The vessel touted as "practically unsinkable" hit an iceberg off the coast of Newfoundland and sank in the early hours of April 15, 1912. More than 1,500 of the 2,200 people on board died. Belfast mourned — and then, for decades, kept quiet about its link to the tragedy.

"When she sank, it was a huge shock for the city," said Susie Millar, whose great-grandfather Thomas Millar was a deck engineer who perished aboard the Titanic. "For years and years it wasn't discussed. But now, coming up to the 100th anniversary, we've rediscovered that pride in the ship."

But few know of the ship's Belfast origins. "I wish the movie had mentioned Belfast just once," said Titanic Belfast marketing manager Claire Bradshaw. "It would make my job a lot easier."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Exhibit

Setting the record straight

The new exhibit aims to correct the record, telling the story of Belfast's time as an industrial powerhouse, and the thousands of men who worked for three years to build Titanic and its sister vessels, Olympic and Britannic. It features 3D projections and sleek audiovisual displays, as well as a roller coaster-style indoor ride that swoops visitors around the hull and through the rudder of a replica ship amid the glow of molten rivets and the clang of metal on metal.

It has enough details to satisfy Titanic aficionados, as well as human drama. The stories of several of the ship's builders, passengers and crew are followed through the displays to their often tragic conclusions. There's also a marine exploration centre linked to the work of Robert Ballard, who discovered the wreck of the Titanic in the Atlantic in 1985.

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Eastern Quebec has plenty for the flower lover

Eastern Townships. La Belle Province is dotted with quaint towns and villages, perfect for a laid-back holiday

MEL BORINS
Metro World News

What does lavender, rosehips, luxury trains, gourmet cuisine and fabulous country inns have in common? Who would have guessed the Eastern Townships of Quebec? I have fond memories of downhill skiing at Owl's Head and often wondered what it would be like to visit this region outside of winter months.

The Eastern Townships are made up of a number of towns and villages to the South East of Montreal. I boarded a VIA Rail train at Union Station and enjoyed the relaxing five-hour ride from Toronto to Montreal.

About 50 minutes east of Montreal is the charming Victorian village of Knowlton, famous for its Loyalist roots and heritage buildings. We stayed our first night close to Knowlton at a four-star inn Auberge Quilliams. The Inn has great canoeing and kayaking through the reserve close by. The beach across the road in front of Lac Brome was a quiet place to unwind.

Close to Auberge Quilliams we visited two tourist sights that were inspiring: Rose des Champs and Bleu Lavande. We also spent an evening on the Orford Express Train belonging to the conductor and priest Father Donald Thompson. The Orford Express has three restaurant cars seating up to 212 diners who travel through the landscapes that link Sherbrooke, Magog and Eastman.

It's not all roses at Rose des Champs.

The beach of Lac Brome offers some spectacular wildlife watching. PHOTOS: MEL BORINS/METRO

Flowers

Everything is rosy

One day, Norman Benoit decided that growing roses and converting the petals into rose products would be an interesting and feasible alternative to traditional farming. So he transformed the farm that had been in his family for four generations and together with his sweetheart Claire Mercier started growing roses. With the philosophy "to do good" they developed a unique four acre private rose garden called Rose des Champs, where they grow some 2000 rose bushes and 800 varieties of roses.

Conductor Father Donald Thompson.

Relaxation

Lavender fields

I adore the smell of lavender and just a few minutes south of the quaint town of Magog, there is Bleu Lavande, the dream child of Pierre Pellerin. Pierre had a successful electronics business but at the age of 42 fell sick with a neurological disease that seemed to be stress related. He sold his business and bought the 160 acre property and along with his wife Christine began planting lavender, and the rest is another dream come true. I loved walking through the stunning fields of flowering plants.

A foot massage with lavender oil out in the middle of the lavender field was delightfully relaxing.

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Start spring off on a sweet note with treats for the big & little kids

Chocolate Mango Mousse. This easy, do-ahead dessert is a great way to incorporate chocolate without over indulging

Because this is a chilled dessert, you can make it ahead of time and not worry about things coming out of the oven at the right time when you're busy trying to impress those picky dinner guests.

To make it into a restaurant-worthy dish, spoon the Chocolate Mango Mousse into parfait glasses and top with fresh berries.

The combination of chocolate and fruit creates an ideal balance for those who want a more grown-up dessert.

Ingredients

4 portions
Start to finish: 30 minutes, plus chilling

- 250 ml (1 cup) frozen mango chunks, thawed
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) sugar
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) homogenized milk
- 1 whole egg, plus 1 yolk
- 22 ml (1 1/2 tbsp) cornstarch
- 150 ml (2/3 cup) milk chocolate bits
- 250 ml (1 cup) heavy cream

1 Fill a medium bowl with ice.

2 In a blender, combine the thawed mango chunks, sugar, milk, whole egg and yolk, and cornstarch. Purée until completely it is smooth.

3 Pour the mixture into a small saucepan over medium heat. Whisking constantly, heat the mixture until it thickens and comes to a boil. Remove from heat and add the milk chocolate bits. Stir until the chocolate is melted and thoroughly incorporated.

4 Place the saucepan in a bowl of ice; ensure that none of the ice gets into the saucepan. Whisk the mixture until it is completely cooled and smooth.

5 In a large bowl, place the heavy cream. Use an electric mixer to beat it until medium peaks form, 3 to 5 minutes.

6 Add half of the beaten cream to the milk chocolate-mango mixture and fold together to incorporate. Add remaining cream and fold again to incorporate.

7 Transfer the Chocolate Mango Mousse to 4 individual serving dishes and refrigerate until you are ready to serve it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chocolate Mango Mousse

The chocolate flavours aren't overpowering. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drink of the Week

Chocolate Seduction

Chocolate and vodka combine to make a romantic cocktail that is pure magic.

Seduce your lover or your favourite foodie with this special drink.

1 Combine vodka, coffee, nut and chocolate liqueurs in a shaker with ice. Shake and strain into two cocktail glasses. Top with chocolate. Makes 2 servings.

- 2 oz vodka
- 1 oz coffee liqueur
- 1 oz nut liqueur (such as Frangelico or Amaretto)
- 1 oz chocolate liqueur
- Grated bittersweet chocolate

RECIPE AND PHOTO: ICEBERG VODKA

Caramelized apples star in frozen dessert

This recipe serves eight. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Bring out the kid in all of us and enjoy a sundae with family and friends. This easy make-ahead caramel apple sundae is perfect to end your next meal.

A creamy-sweet combination of caramelized apples and vanilla frozen yogurt topped with crunchy granola offers the perfect combination of ingredients.

Top this frozen treat with fresh whipped cream and a sprinkle of cinnamon for a truly decadent dessert.

1 In a large bowl, toss apples with lemon juice; set aside.

2 In a large heavy skillet over medium-high heat, melt butter. Add sugar and stir until it has completely dissolved and is dark amber in colour. Add apples with their juices and reduce heat to low.

3 Cook, stirring often, about 10 minutes or until apples are softened. Stir in cream and vanilla; transfer to a large bowl. Let cool, cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour or until chilled and thickened. (Keep it refrigerated for up to 2 days.)

4 To assemble: For each serving, place 2 caramelized apples wedges in a sundae glass. Top with a scoop of frozen yogurt, 2 caramelized apple wedges and some granola. Repeat frozen yogurt, apple and granola layers.

5 Top with additional whipped cream and a sprinkle of cinnamon, if desired. ONTARIO APPLE GROWERS, ONAPPLES.COM/ THE CANADIAN PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR, AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE VISIT, EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Ingredients

- 3 apples (McIntosh or Spy), peeled cored and each cut into 12 wedges
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) lemon juice
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) butter
- 500 ml (2 cups) granulate sugar
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) 35% whipping cream
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) vanilla
- 1.5 L (6 cups) vanilla frozen yogurt or vanilla ice cream
- 250 ml (1 cup) crunchy granola
- Ground cinnamon (optional)

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Nation-to-nation navigation: Interviews across the pond

East to West. Keep cultural differences in mind during a job interview abroad

LIN ABDUL RAHMAN
Talentegg.ca

Canadian employers often value confidence in a potential hire. ISTOCK

Do you remember the AT&T commercial where a man insults his Chinese business associate when he mispronounces the associate's name?

The commercial highlights the importance of clarity and precision in communication, and it also underscores the cultural nuances that we encounter at our increasingly global workplaces. These situations may seem funny in retrospect, but if they're not handled properly they may have serious consequences not only for the employee but for the company as well.

And these cultural distinctions extend far beyond the spoken language. I've had work experience in several culturally distinct countries and I can safely say the attitudes employers expect to see in a candidate also vary greatly from one country to another.

In Malaysia — a country heavily influenced by its Eastern morals and values — modesty, respect and courtesy are some of the characteristics candidates are expected to possess and display. This is not to say that employers in Western countries do not appreciate such values — quite the contrary.

However, in Malaysian culture, reverence and respect for elders, and by extension those higher up in the social hierarchy, are expected virtues in any individual. These qualities are therefore crucial in dealing with clients and associates.

As a result, candidates are expected to demonstrate these values during the interview process at great lengths, and then some.

Along the same vein, candidates are also expected to acknowledge an organization's inherent hierarchy, be it a formal or informal one. Of course, it goes without saying that falling in line is expected in any company anywhere on the globe. As the saying goes, 'You have to go along in order to get along.'

However, in Malaysia, it's crucial that a candidate displays a certain readiness, or even an eagerness, to fit into the existing pecking order. It might seem superficial or perhaps somewhat trivial, but it's crucial nonetheless as it is seen as a manifestation of the candidate's respect toward his or her superiors.

From the job interviews I've had in Australia and Canada — not all of them successful, naturally — I've found that ambition, confidence and being proactive are highly regarded by employers. These qualities are often the determining factors for whether an interview is successful or not.

Here in Canada, candidates are expected to possess high self esteem and feel confident about 'selling' themselves to employers. This is perhaps the greatest distinction between the work cultures in Canada and Malaysia.

Numerous other facets of a culture come into play in determining on whether or not a candidate has had a successful interview and it is impossible to list them all.

Suffice it to say that it is good to develop a feel for the subtleties that exist within any given culture in order to gage what an employer might expect to see in a candidate.

LIN ABDUL RAHMAN IS A JOURNALISM STUDENT WITH A MINOR IN HUMAN RIGHTS AT LAURIER BRANTFORD. SHE IS ORIGINALLY FROM MALAYSIA AND NOW CALLS CANADA HOME.

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"In Malaysia — a country heavily influenced by its Eastern morals and values — modesty, respect and courtesy are some of the characteristics candidates are expected to possess and display."

Lin Abdul Rahman, student at Laurier Brantford

Students

Population

International post-secondary students made up about 7.7% of the total student population and 6.3% of graduates in Canada in 2010. More than one third of international students attend school in Ontario.

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- **2004/2005.** 110,448
- **2005/2006.** 118,707
- **2006/2007.** 120,402
- **2007/2008.** 123,309
- **2008/2009.** 129,636
- **2009/2010.** 146,928

From abroad

Origins

Top 3 regions of origin of international students (2008):

- Asia: 52.7%
- Europe: 17.9%
- Africa: 11.8%

Top 3

Top 3 fields of study of international students (2008)

1. Business, management and public administration: 23.2%
2. Architecture, engineering and related technologies: 14.4%
3. Physical and life sciences, and technologies: 8.3%

ALL DATA COURTESY OF STATISTICS CANADA

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Student Voice

The student struggle

Ishpreet Minhas
Recent graduate - electrical engineering, Dalhousie University
talentegg.ca

I am an international student who recently graduated from Dalhousie University's electrical engineering program and I had great difficulty finding an entry-level job.

Although the job market may still be recovering from the recession, I even had difficulty finding co-op internships. Both work terms I eventually got were found by me; I didn't get any job offers through my university co-op office.

When I graduated, I was a student far from home with eight months of work experience and no job prospects. I worked part-time in a job that I was over-qualified for to start paying off my student debt while I searched for meaningful full-time employment. I finally found a job as an engineer-in-training at the end of last summer.

The only explanations that I could think of were:

1. I am not a Canadian citizen
2. My grades are average (but no one asks WHY)

My recommendation for employers: don't judge students solely on their grades. An employee's worth is just as evident by their attitude and their zeal.

Break out of your typical hiring routine and try something (or someone) different!

International students leave their homes to find better opportunities and lead better lives, yet they still struggle. I have many friends that are experiencing similar situations.

Just keep at it and hopefully you will find success soon!

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ARWEN KIDD
Talentegg.ca

Getting a degree, developing skills, gaining experience – no matter what school you choose, or where you come from, university is a time that allows students to get a head start on their careers.

For all students – from abroad or not – the basic techniques to achieve this are generally the same: earning good grades, gaining the most valuable career-relevant "experiences" you can, and polishing up on all those job-marketable skills. Then, to show these accomplishments off, building (and writing) an appealing resumé. It's a proven formula.

Where the extra challenge for international students comes in, however, is in learning how to adjust to the Canadian labour market. If you do it well, you can embrace and emphasize what makes you special as an international student.

It's a tricky balance, but for those students who manage to use their 'international student status' to its full potential, it can lead to substantial career benefits later on. And it's a learning process that can begin right from the start of your university experience — or, for some, even before.

Today, Enrique Chacon is an international student advisor in southwestern Ontario's University of Windsor. But 15 years ago, Chacon — a native of Colombia — was a newly arrived international student himself, intent on pursuing a master's of international and intercultural education at the University of Alberta .

Before he started classes for his degree, Chacon says he concentrated first on improving his English — something he encourages all international students to do.

"That's number one on the list — to improve your English," he says. Bilingual (and particularly multilingual) skills are extremely attractive to Canadian employers, but if you don't have sufficient working English, you simply won't be able to compete.

Besides language skills, Chacon says the only other real challenge some international students have in finding jobs is a general lack of awareness for their greater communities — even after they've already been living in Canada for a number of years.

"Some international students get so involved in their programs," Chacon explains, "that they never really get out of their dorm rooms or off campus.

It's good that they're concentrating on their studies, but [not if] they miss out on everything else. So I would say to them to 'expand your horizons. Get to know the environment — the city, as well as the campus. It will help you in the long run, when you're trying to go out and apply for jobs later on."

The value of volunteer work

In general, Enrique Chacon says many Canadian employers are eager to hire international students and/or graduates because they have a strong reputation for being hardworking, bright individuals.

- These same employers, he warns, want to see the students that understand and fit in with the Canadian culture and work environment – so the more experience you have to prove this, the better off you will be.

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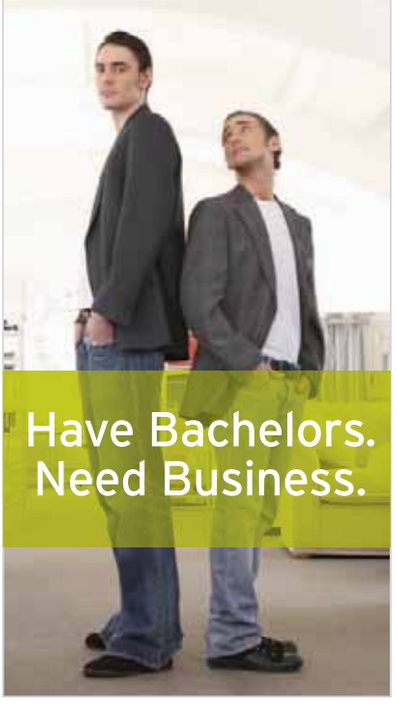

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BRUCE WALSH
Metro World News in Philadelphia

Even you may need to retrain your digits to do a better job. ISTOCK

When Patrick Gray graduated from Boston College in 1999, he was determined to become a detail-oriented professional. He started with perhaps the most overlooked detail of contemporary office culture: typing.

"It represented kind of bigger things to me. I thought, 'It's time to be a professional and learn to type for real,'" he explains. "I went cold turkey from two-finger typing. I thought, 'Even if it takes me 10 minutes on an email, I'm going to force myself to do it the right way.'"

"I think these skills are going downhill in most offices. There's less of this training at the high school and college level," says Sally Mounts, president of Auctus Consulting Group.

"It's kind of ironic, because we're all typing more than ever now, but we're less cognizant of typing skills."

It took a full month of home-row discipline for Gray — now the president of Prevoyance Group, an IT company — to get his speed back up to where it was when he started: 20 words per minute. But after six months he was sailing along at three times that rate.

"Growing up with computers, most people tend to two- or four-finger type. The hardest thing about retraining yourself is the first hour," says Mounts.

"It doesn't get worse than that. So if you can get through an hour, you're on your way."

It's just my type!

Software to help you leave hunting and pecking behind:

- **The cheaper route, $5.** XType is the leading typing tutor in the Mac App Store. It promises an addictive game-play format.
- **The standard, $30.** Mavis Beacon by Brunderbund Software has been the standard in typing tutorials since the 1980s. The software promises a two-week course with personalized lessons and arcade-style games.

Talk about texts

Just how long does it take you to text your buddies?

- TypingWeb Typing Tutor by FTW Innovations is a free app for the iPhone and iTouch.
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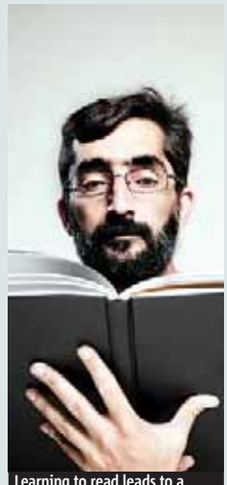
Research

Study finds illiteracy can affect health


Learning to read leads to a longer life, says study. WWISTOCK

If you're able to read this story, you may be in for a healthier future.

A study from The University College London found that adults who do not know how to read are twice as likely to die five years, sooner than adults who are literate, according to BBC News.

The connection is an obvious one: adults who have trouble reading cannot fully understand instructions on medicine labels and prescription bottles, hence putting their health at risk.

About 8,000 adults over the age of 65 in England were tested on their ability to understand the instructions on an aspirin bottle. About 12.5 per cent had "low health literacy," meaning they made at least a couple of mistakes in the directions.

Over the next five years, 16 per cent of the "low health literacy" group died. Researchers believe they've found a link between illiteracy and health problems physical limitations, chronic diseases and depressive symptoms.

"How are patients expected to make informed decisions if they do not fully understand the information being given to them?" said Katherine Murphy, chief executive of the Patients' Association. "Patients must be involved in the development of these information leaflets from the outset to make sure they provide relevant and clear information."

CASSANDRA GARRISON, METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

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NFL

Eagles trade for Texans LB Ryans

The Philadelphia Eagles made a big move to bolster the middle of their defence, acquiring two-time Pro Bowl linebacker DeMeco Ryans from the Houston Texans for a fourth-round draft pick in 2012. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Ward retires, rather than seek a new team

Longtime Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Hines Ward retired on Tuesday rather than try extending his career with another team.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hines Ward announces his retirement.
GENE J. PUSKAR/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NCAA basketball

Tar Heels ready to play without injured guard

North Carolina coach Roy Williams says his team's "preparation is 100 per cent" to play without injured point guard Kendall Marshall.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rangers-Devils brawl

"It's almost better to get it out of the way off the bat and play the game."

New York islander John Tavares on Monday's game-opening brawl between the Devils and Rangers.

Maple Leafs have now lost eight in a row in Toronto

NHL. Since Feb. 7, struggling team has record of 4-15-2

Their confidence is shattered. Their season is lost.

And if the Toronto Maple Leafs have any idea what's behind a tailspin that seems to be fuelling a revolt among their passionate fanbase, they're keeping it behind closed doors.

Randy Carlyle conducted a lengthy post-game meeting with his players after twice watching them blow leads on the way to losing 5-2 to the New York Islanders on Tuesday night. Rather than deliver a message to the group, he decided to go around the dressing room and ask questions.

"I wanted to hear how they felt about what was going on," said Carlyle. "They were disappointed in the way they played."

The coach didn't think it was his place to disclose much more detail than that and the players refused to elaborate as well. While plenty of them hung around to speak with reporters following an eighth straight loss at the Air Canada Centre, they provided little insight on what's gone wrong.

"The message is for us," said forward Matthew Lombardi. "We've got to believe in ourselves here and stay positive and move forward."

It's going to be very difficult, especially with many of their supporters having turned on them. Some fans attended Tuesday's game wearing paper bags over their heads and loud boos rained down after Matt Moulson scored the eventual winner with six minutes to play.

In the dying moments, a couple people even chanted "Fi-re Burk-ie!" — although it was nowhere near as audible as the "Fi-re Wil-son!" chants that came before former coach Ron Wilson was shown the door earlier this month.

With the franchise heading for an eighth straight year outside of the playoffs, tensions are clearly running high in the city.

"This is one of the most storied franchises in the sport," said Carlyle. "We can't fault our fans for (their displeasure) in the way we played tonight. They're allowed to do that and that's their right."
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Islanders forward David Ullstrom, second from right, is congratulated by teammates after scoring his team's second goal against the Maple Leafs on Tuesday at the Air Canada Centre. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Suddenly hot Knicks roll over Raptors

Raptors forward James Johnson is defended by Knicks forward Carmelo Anthony on Tuesday in New York. FRANK FRANKLIN II/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Amare Stoudemire had 22 points and 12 rebounds, Jeremy Lin added 18 points and 10 assists, and the New York Knicks made it four straight easy victories under Mike Woodson by beating the Toronto Raptors 106-87 on Tuesday night.

Carmelo Anthony and Tyson Chandler each scored 17 points for the Knicks, who bring a week's worth of momentum to Philadelphia on Wednesday night for a matchup with the Atlantic Division-leading 76ers. The Knicks rode another night of balanced scoring and renewed defensive intensity to a comfortable lead for most of the final three quarters.

DeMar DeRozan scored 17 points for the Raptors. Jose Calderon had 11 points and nine assists in his return from a five-game absence with a sprained right ankle, but backup Jerryd Bayless was lost to a left hip pointer in the second half.

The Knicks were right around their stats through Woodson's first three games, when they allowed 89 points per game on 39 per cent shooting while averaging 112.7 points and outscoring opponents by 16 per game.

"They're a tenacious, different team," Toronto coach Dwane Casey said.

"It's amazing, their tenacity, the way they attack. If you don't meet it, they take you out."

The teams meet again Friday in Toronto.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Road trip

2-3

Andrea Bargnani scored 15 points but shot just 5-of-15 for the Raptors, who finished 2-3 on a five-game trip. A victory would have given them a second winning five-game trip this season.

4

SPORTS

Quoted

"I'm not where I want to be. I want to be where I was before I was injured. There's a lot of work to do to get where we want to be from a health standpoint."

Peyton Manning on his surgically repaired neck after being introduced as the Broncos' new quarterback on Tuesday in Denver. The 35-year-old star signed a five-year, $96-million US contract and said he plans to retire in Denver. Broncos vice-president John Elway, who engineered the deal, said no decision has been made on QB Tim Tebow's future.

"If Tim Tebow is here next year, I'm going to be the best teammate I can be to him."

Peyton Manning

Kelly Johnson bats for the Blue Jays against the Pirates earlier this month in Dunedin, Fla. DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Johnson gets another shot at No. 2 spot with the Jays

MLB. Second baseman looking to facilitate offence early in Toronto's batting order

Kelly Johnson is moving his way back up to the top of the order.

The Toronto Blue Jays second baseman is slated to bat in the No. 2 spot when the 2012 regular season begins April 5 in Cleveland.

Although he has batted first or second for most of his major-league career, he says it doesn't matter to him where he hits.

"It ultimately comes down to how you're doing," the 30-year-old from Austin, Texas, said. "If you can be a consistent hitter and be the best hitter you can be and you're doing everything right, then I feel I fit in a number of spots."

Johnson batted sixth in 16 of his 32 starts for Toronto after he was acquired from the Arizona Diamondbacks last Aug. 23 in a trade for John McDonald and Aaron Hill. He was used as the No. 2 hitter twice.

Johnson said his mindset doesn't necessarily change when he bats second, but the situations are different compared to other places in the order.

"I think the opportunities are different," he said. "In the two-hole, or up in the lineup, you're going to have more of those opportunities where you've got, like, a runner at second, nobody out, or a bunt situation, or a hit-and-run situation, or nobody on and you need to start the inning, you need to start a rally."

The fact he bats left is "another reason it's a good fit," he said.

Johnson's focus in Florida is doing the things that will enable him to drive the ball when he gets his pitch and to just be ready once the season starts.

"In spring it's trying something here, trying something there and really trying to get a routine and putting myself in a good position to hit the ball hard," he said.

Defence is also something Johnson has been working on at spring training, particularly in starting the double play.

He played shortstop and left field before becoming a second baseman and has developed a good, quick throw to first after taking the feed for the force at second.

"I'm not going to say it came natural," he said.

"I'm not going to tell anybody that I've got the best feet in baseball in the middle infield, because I haven't. But I have a good enough arm and I feel if I get enough on the ball I'll be able to turn my part of it." THE CANADIAN PRESS

At the dish

"I don't have goals for home runs. I really only have goals for quality, consistent at-bats and hitting the ball hard."

Kelly Johnson. Blue Jays second baseman.

Batting history

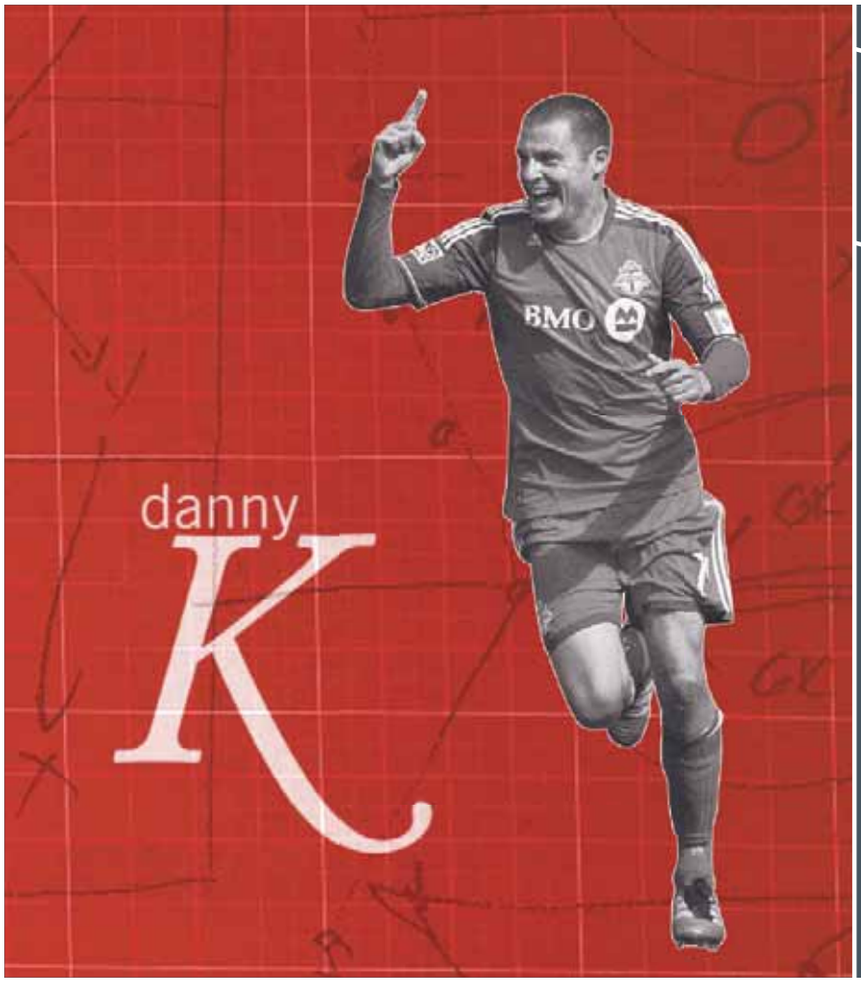
Aiming to regain form

Kelly Johnson has plenty to work on regardless of where he hits in the Blue Jays' order.

In 2010, he hit a career-high 26 homers and drove in 71 runs while batting .284 with a .370 on-base percentage.

He hit 21 homers with 58 RBIs in 2011 but his average dropped to .222 and his OBP to .304. With Toronto he batted .270 with three homers, nine RBIs, and a .364 OBP.

"I got really in a good groove and I had a good year," Johnson said of 2010. "The next year I probably thought a lot more about how I did it and tried to kind of duplicate it rather than just do the same thing.... I was thinking more where the ball was going to go." THE CANADIAN PRESS



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NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
dx-NY Rangers	72	45	20	2	5	199	160	97	25-9-0-2	20-11-2-3	4-5-1-0	W1
d-Boston	72	42	27	1	2	236	178	87	22-13-1-1	20-14-0-1	4-6-0-0	W2
d-Florida	72	36	23	5	8	182	198	85	20-9-1-7	16-14-4-1	6-3-0-1	W5
Pittsburgh	72	45	21	3	3	239	184	96	25-8-2-0	20-13-1-3	9-0-1-0	W1
Philadelphia	73	42	23	2	6	232	206	92	19-11-1-4	23-12-1-2	7-2-0-1	L1
New Jersey	74	42	27	2	3	201	191	89	20-13-0-3	22-14-2-0	6-4-0-0	W1
Ottawa	74	37	27	6	4	221	214	84	19-15-2-2	18-12-4-2	4-4-0-2	L2
Washington	73	37	30	3	3	198	208	78	23-10-1-2	14-20-2-1	5-4-1-0	W1
Buffalo	73	34	29	4	6	187	207	78	18-11-3-5	16-18-1-1	6-2-0-2	W1
Winnipeg	73	34	31	4	4	196	211	76	23-11-1-3	11-20-3-1	4-5-0-1	L2
Carolina	73	29	29	9	6	194	217	73	18-13-1-5	11-16-8-1	5-3-2-0	W3
Toronto	74	32	34	4	4	210	232	72	16-14-3-3	16-20-1-1	3-6-0-1	L2
Tampa Bay	72	32	33	4	3	202	247	71	21-14-1-1	11-19-3-2	4-5-1-0	L3
NY Islanders	73	30	32	7	4	173	213	71	15-16-5-1	15-16-3-2	4-4-1-1	W2
Montreal	73	28	32	4	9	191	203	69	13-15-2-7	15-17-2-2	4-3-2-1	L2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
dx-St. Louis	73	46	19	1	7	189	142	100	28-4-1-3	18-15-0-4	7-2-0-1	W1
d-Vancouver	72	43	21	1	7	223	182	94	21-10-0-4	22-11-1-2	3-5-1-1	L1
d-Dallas	72	39	28	1	4	189	192	83	20-13-0-3	19-15-1-1	7-2-0-1	L2
Nashville	72	42	22	3	5	206	186	92	23-8-2-3	19-14-1-2	6-3-0-1	W1
Detroit	73	44	25	2	2	224	179	92	28-5-1-1	16-20-1-1	3-6-1-0	L5
Chicago	74	41	25	4	4	227	213	90	25-7-1-4	16-18-3-0	8-1-0-1	W4
Phoenix	73	36	26	3	8	191	188	83	18-12-2-4	18-14-1-4	3-5-0-2	W1
Colorado	74	39	30	3	2	194	195	83	21-15-0-1	18-15-3-1	6-3-0-1	W1
Los Angeles	72	35	25	5	7	167	157	82	19-13-0-4	16-12-5-3	7-3-0-0	W3
San Jose	72	36	26	5	5	197	186	82	21-12-2-1	15-14-3-4	3-4-1-2	L1
Calgary	73	34	26	5	8	182	199	81	20-9-1-5	14-16-4-3	6-1-1-2	L2
Anaheim	74	31	32	5	6	185	206	73	19-16-2-0	12-16-3-6	4-5-1-0	W1
Minnesota	72	30	32	2	8	155	199	70	16-15-1-3	14-17-1-5	2-7-0-1	W1
Edmonton	72	28	36	3	5	190	213	64	18-15-2-3	10-21-1-2	3-5-1-1	L1
Columbus	73	23	43	2	5	167	236	53	13-21-1-2	10-22-1-3	5-5-0-0	L1

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
New Jersey 1 Ottawa 0
N.Y. Islanders 5 Toronto 2
Pittsburgh 8 Winnipeg 4
Chicago 5 Columbus 1
Florida 2 Philadelphia 1
Edmonton at Nashville
Phoenix at Dallas
Calgary at Colorado
San Jose at Los Angeles
Monday's results
Boston 8 Toronto 0
Minnesota 2 Vancouver 0
Anaheim 5 San Jose 3
Buffalo 7 Tampa Bay 3
N.Y. Rangers 4 New Jersey 2
Washington 5 Detroit 3
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Montreal at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Florida at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Detroit at N.Y. Rangers, 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Chicago, 8 p.m.
St. Louis at Anaheim, 10 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Washington at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Edmonton at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Calgary at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Colorado at Phoenix, 10 p.m.
St. Louis at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.
Boston at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Friday's games
Toronto at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Winnipeg at Washington, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Florida, 7:30 p.m.

ISLANDERS 5, MAPLE LEAFS 2

First Period
1. Toronto, Kessel 36 (Bozak, Komisarek) 10:24
2. N.Y. Islanders, Bailey 11 (Tavares, Parenteau) 15:34
Penalties — None.
Second Period
3. Toronto, Lombardi 8 (Gardiner, Armstrong) 4:12
4. N.Y. Islanders, Ullstrom 3 (Grabner, Cizikas) 13:08
Penalties — Schenn Tor (roughing) 6:48, Grabovski Tor (tripping) 15:53, Okposo NYI (interference) 17:34.
Third Period
5. N.Y. Islanders, Moulson 31 (Tavares, Streit) 13:56 (pp)
6. N.Y. Islanders, Parenteau 16 (Streit) 15:43
7. N.Y. Islanders, Moulson 32 (Parenteau, Tavares) 18:25 (en)
Penalties — Grabovski Tor (high-sticking) 0:56, Frattin Tor (delay of game) 13:24.
Shots on goal by

N.Y. Islanders	7	12	15	34
Toronto	4	6	4	14

Goal — N.Y. Islanders: Nabokov (W,17-18-3); Toronto: Reimer (L,13-14-4). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — N.Y. Islanders: 1-4; Toronto: 0-1.
Attendance — 19,351 (18,819) at Toronto.

DEVILS 1, SENATORS 0

First Period — No Scoring.
Penalty — Alfredsson Ott (interference) 0:50.
Second Period
1. New Jersey, Kovalchuk 31 (Zidlicky, Elias) 17:20 (pp)
Penalties — Bernier NJ (high-sticking) 3:38, Konopka Ott (kneeing) 15:56.
Third Period
No Scoring.
Penalties — Bishop Ott (delay of game; served by Turris) 4:26, Smith Ott (boarding) 10:29, Clarkson NJ (slashing) 16:22, New Jersey bench (too many men; served by Carter) 17:57.
Shots on goal by

New Jersey	9	14	11	34
Ottawa	15	7	12	34

Goal — New Jersey: Hedberg (W,16-7-2); Ottawa: Bishop (L,3-2-2).
Power plays (goals-chances) — New Jersey: 1-4; Ottawa: 0-3.
Referees — Dean Morten, Kevin Pollock.
Linesmen — Michel Cormier, Jean Morin.
Attendance — 19,834 (19,153) at Ottawa.

PENGUINS 8, JETS 4

First Period
1. Pittsburgh, Kennedy 7 (Crosby, Cooke) 2:04
2. Winnipeg, Slater 10 (Glass, Machacek) 3:35
3. Winnipeg, Little 20 (Ladd, Enstrom) 12:51 (pp)
4. Pittsburgh, Neal 33 (Malkin, Crosby) 16:44 (pp)
Penalties — Byfuglien Wpg (high-sticking) 9:36, Malkin Pgh (double high-sticking) 11:32, Enstrom Wpg (holding) 15:04.
Second Period
5. Pittsburgh, Neal 34 (Malkin) 1:15
6. Winnipeg, Little 21 (Ladd, Enstrom) 3:54
7. Pittsburgh, Kennedy 8 (Crosby, Cooke) 6:55
8. Pittsburgh, Malkin 42 (Crosby, Martin) 11:31
9. Winnipeg, Stapleton 9 (Maxwell, Machacek) 14:39
10. Pittsburgh, Neal 35 (Malkin, Orpik) 17:03
Penalties — None.
Third Period
11. Pittsburgh, Malkin 43 (Kunitz, Neal) 2:07
12. Pittsburgh, Dupuis 21 (Staal, Sullivan) 13:27
Penalty — Little Wpg (tripping) 18:55.
Shots on goal by

Winnipeg	12	10	8	30
Pittsburgh	13	15	7	35

Goal (shots-saves) — Winnipeg: Pavelec (L,27-25-7)(24-19), Mason (12:50 second)(11-8); Pittsburgh: Thiessen (W,3-0-0).
Power plays (goals-chances) — Winnipeg: 1-2; Pittsburgh: 1-3.
Attendance — 18,589 (18,387) at Pittsburgh, Pa.

CURLING

WOMEN'S WORLD CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

At Lethbridge, Alta.

Country (Skip)	W	L
South Korea (JS.Kim)	5	1
Canada (Nedohin)	**5**	**1**
Sweden (Sigfridsson)	4	2
Switzerland (Ott)	4	2
Scotland (Muirhead)	3	4
Germany (A.Schopp)	3	4
Russia (A.Sidorova)	3	4
Denmark (Nielsen)	3	4
Czech Republic (Klimova)	2	4
Italy (Gaspari)	2	4
China (B.Wang)	2	4
U.S. (Pottinger)	2	4

ROUND ROBIN
Yesterday's results
Ninth Draw
Canada 7 Russia 5
China 7 Denmark 6
Switzerland 5 Scotland 4
U.S. 9 Germany 7
Draw 10
Germany 9 Italy 6
Russia 7 Sweden 3
Scotland 8. Czech Republic 5
South Korea 9 Denmark 8 (extra end)
Draw 11
Czech Republic vs. Switzerland; Sweden vs. **Canada;** South Korea vs. China; Italy vs. U.S.

SOCCER

MLS

Friday's game
All times Eastern
Houston at Seattle FC, 10 p.m.
Saturday's games
San Jose at Toronto FC, 1 p.m.
Portland at New England, 4 p.m.
Montreal at Columbus, 4 p.m.
Philadelphia at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Chivas USA at Real Salt Lake, 9 p.m.
D.C. United at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Sunday's games
Colorado at New York, 4 p.m.
FC Dallas at Sporting Kansas City, 7 p.m.
Tuesday's British Soccer Scores
Home teams listed first

ENGLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

Yesterday's result
Blackburn 2, Sunderland 0

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

Yesterday's results
Brighton 2, Derby 0
Bristol City 0, Watford 2
Crystal Palace 1, Barnsley 0
Doncaster 0, Millwall 3
Hull 0, Southampton 2
Leeds 3, Nottingham Forest 7
Peterborough 3, Reading 1
Portsmouth 4, Birmingham 1
West Ham 1, Middlesbrough 1 League One
Bournemouth 1, Brentford 0
Bury 0, Scunthorpe 0
Carlisle 0, Preston 0
Charlton 3, Yeovil 0
Chesterfield 0, Huddersfield 2
Exeter 1, Wycombe 3
Hartlepool 0, Oldham 1
MK Dons 4, Leyton Orient 1
Notts County 2, Sheffield United 5
Rochdale 0, Tranmere 2
Sheffield Wednesday 2, Walsall 2
Stevenage 0, Colchester 0

GERMANY

GERMAN CUP

SEMIFINALS
Yesterday's result
Greuther Fuerth 0, Borussia Dortmund 1, OT

FRANCE

FRENCH CUP

QUARTER-FINALS
Yesterday's result
Quevilly 3 Marseille 2

ITALY

ITALIAN CUP

SEMIFINALS
Juventus 2 AC Milan 2 (extra time)
(Juventus advances on 4-3 aggregate)

LACROSSE

NLL

WEEK 12
Friday's game
Philadelphia at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Saturday's games
Toronto at Rochester, 7:30 p.m.
Buffalo at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Washington at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Sunday's games
Colorado at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
Minnesota at Washington, 8 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Chicago	38	10	.792	—
d-Miami	34	11	.756	2½
Orlando	29	18	.617	8½
d-Philadelphia	26	20	.565	11
Indiana	26	18	.591	10
Atlanta	26	20	.565	11
Boston	24	21	.533	12½
New York	22	24	.478	15
Milwaukee	20	24	.455	16
Cleveland	17	26	.395	18½
Detroit	16	29	.356	20½
Toronto	15	31	.326	22
New Jersey	15	32	.319	22½
Washington	10	34	.227	26
Charlotte	7	37	.159	29

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Oklahoma City	34	11	.756	—
d-San Antonio	29	14	.674	4
d-L.A. Lakers	28	17	.622	6
Memphis	25	18	.581	8
L.A. Clippers	26	19	.578	8
Dallas	27	20	.574	8
Denver	25	21	.543	9½
Houston	24	22	.522	10½
Utah	23	22	.511	11
Phoenix	23	23	.500	11½
Minnesota	23	24	.489	12
Portland	21	24	.467	13
Golden State	18	25	.419	15
Sacramento	16	29	.356	18
New Orleans	11	34	.244	23

d-division leader
Last night's results
Indiana 102, L.A. Clippers 89
Miami 99, Phoenix 95
New York 106, Toronto 87
L.A. Lakers at Houston
Oklahoma City at Utah
Memphis at Sacramento
Milwaukee at Portland
Monday's results
Philadelphia 105, Charlotte 80
Boston 79, Atlanta 76
Cleveland 105, New Jersey 100
Chicago 85, Orlando 59
Minnesota 97, Golden State 93
Dallas 112, Denver 95
Tonight's games
Chicago at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Orlando, 7 p.m.
New York at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Golden State at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Detroit at Denver, 9 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.

MLB

SPRING TRAINING

Yesterday's results
Philadelphia 4, Baltimore 1
Detroit 7, Atlanta 2
Tampa Bay 3, Miami 2
St. Louis 6, Houston 1
Texas 6, Chicago Cubs (ss) 2
Kansas City 6, L.A. Angels 4
Oakland 5, Chicago Cubs (ss) 5, tie, 10 innings
L.A. Dodgers 7, Milwaukee 6
Seattle 8, Cincinnati 1
Arizona 4, San Francisco 3
N.Y. Mets 2, Washington 0
Toronto 9, Boston 2
N.Y. Yankees 10, Pittsburgh 3
Colorado vs. San Diego

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

DETROIT TIGERS — Reassigned C Bryan Holaday, INF/OF Eric Patterson, OF Jerad Head and OF Matt Young to minor league camp.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Traded LHP Kevin Chapman and a minor league player to be named to Houston for C Humberto Quintero and OF Jason Bourgeois. Placed C Salvador Perez and C Manuel Pina on the 60-day DL.
TEXAS RANGERS — Agreed to terms with LHP Derek Holland on a five-year contract.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ATLANTA BRAVES — Assigned RHP Jaye Chapman, RHP J.J. Hoover, RHP Todd Redmond and LHP Luis Avilan to Gwinnett (IL) and LHP Sean Gilmartin and OF Stefan Gartrell to minor league camp.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Optioned RHP Chuckie Fick, LHP Sam Freeman and RHP Adam Ottavino to Memphis (PCL). Reassigned RHP Trevor Rosenthal, LHP R.J. Swindle, INF Ryan Jackson and C Steven Hill to minor league camp.
SAN DIEGO PADRES — Agreed to terms with C Nick Hundley on a three-year contract.

BASKETBALL

NBA

CLEVELAND CAVALIERS — Waived C Ryan Collins.
MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES — Signed G Gilbert Arenas for the remainder of the season.
PHILADELPHIA 76ERS — Waived F Andres Nocioni.

FOOTBALL

NFL

DENVER BRONCOS — Signed QB Peyton Manning to a five-year contract.
DETROIT LIONS — Re-signed DT Andre Fluellen to a one-year contract.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed WR Brandon Lloyd.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Announced the retirement of WR Hines Ward.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Agreed to terms with DE Kamerion Wimbley on a multi-year contract.
WASHINGTON REDSKINS — Re-signed DE Adam Carriker and G Kory Lichtensteiger.

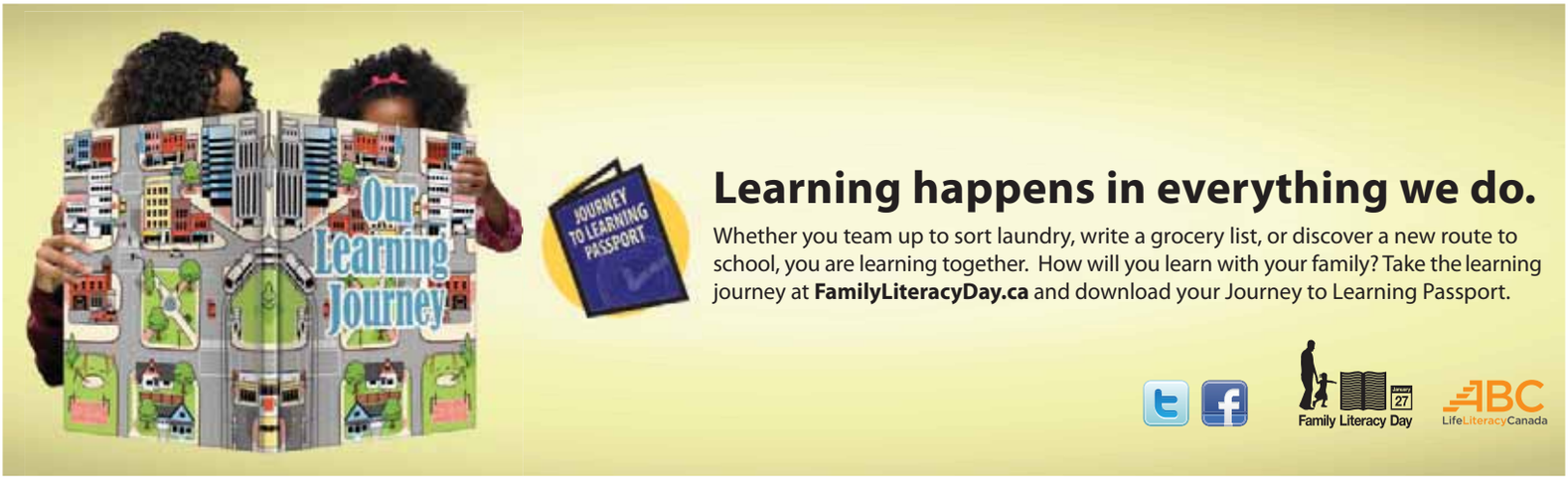
CFL

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS — Signed coach Paul LaPolice to a two-year contract extension.

HOCKEY

NHL

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Assigned F Mark McNeill to Rockford (AHL).
DALLAS STARS — Assigned G Jack Campbell to Texas from Sault Ste. Marie (OHL) to Texas (AHL).
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Reassigned G Dustin Tokarski to Norfolk (AHL).
WINNIPEG JETS — Recalled F Ben Maxwell from St. John's (AHL).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JOURNEY TO LEARNING PASSPORT
Learning happens in everything we do.
Whether you team up to sort laundry, write a grocery list, or discover a new route to school, you are learning together. How will you learn with your family? Take the learning journey at FamilyLiteracyDay.ca and download your Journey to Learning Passport.
Family Literacy Day
ABC LifeLiteracyCanada

SIRIUS SATELLITE RADIO

DODGE CARAVAN KIDS

PROUD SPONSOR OF AMATEUR HOCKEY ACROSS CANADA

THE BIGGEST SAVE THE FREIGHT EVENT EVER

WE GO GET IT. YOU GET $1,500 IN SAVINGS.

2012 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT
CANADA'S BEST SELLING MINIVAN FOR 28 YEARS

$135 BI-WEEKLY FINANCING† @ **4.99%** FOR 96 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN

2012 Dodge Grand Caravan Crew shown.§

- **Industry-Exclusive** 2nd row Super Stow 'n Go® with one-hand operation
- **Segment-Exclusive**▪ Stow 'n Place™ roof rack
- 3rd row Stow 'n Go® with **Segment-Exclusive**▪ tailgate seating
- Centre front floor console with cupholders
- Deep-tint sunscreen glass
- Body-coloured door handles and bodyside moulding

OR CHOOSE

2012 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN CANADA VALUE PACKAGE

$19,995•

PURCHASE PRICE INCLUDES $8,000 CONSUMER CASH‡, FREIGHT, AIR TAX, TIRE LEVY AND OMVIC FEE. TAXES EXCLUDED. OTHER RETAILER CHARGES MAY APPLY.+

36 MPG HWY° (7.9 L/100 KM HWY°) | **283** HP BEST-IN-CLASS▪

CASH DISCOUNTS UP TO $8,500

+Your local retailer may charge additional fees for administration/pre-delivery that can range from $0 to $1,098 and anti-theft/safety products that can range from $0 to $1,298. Charges may vary by retailer.

Dodge.ca/Offers

MORE POWER. LESS FUEL. GREAT VALUE.
10 VEHICLES WITH 40 MPG HWY OR BETTER.

RAM DODGE Jeep CHRYSLER

SCAN HERE
FOR MORE GREAT OFFERS

More Power. Less Fuel. Great Value is a comparison between the entire current Chrysler Canada lineup and the entire 2011 Chrysler Canada lineup. Wise customers read the fine print: •, ▪, †, §, ❖ The Save the Freight Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased from participating retailers between March 1 and April 2, 2012. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. See participating retailers for complete details and conditions. •$19,995 Purchase Price applies to 2012 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (29B) only and includes $8,000 Consumer Cash Discount. See participating retailers for complete details. Pricing includes freight ($1,400–$1,500), air tax (if applicable), tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. †Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on select 2012 vehicles and are manufacturer-to-retailer incentives, which are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Amounts vary by vehicle. See your retailer for complete details. †4.99% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on the new 2012 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT (29G) model to qualified customers on approved credit through Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank, TD Auto Finance and Ally Credit Canada. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. See your retailer for complete details. Example: 2012 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT (29G) with a Purchase Price of $23,095 (including Consumer Cash Discount and $1,500 Save the Freight discount) financed at 4.99% over 96 months with $0 down payment, equals 208 bi-weekly payments of $135 with a cost of borrowing of $4,963 and a total obligation of $28,058.01. Pricing includes freight air tax (if applicable), tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. See bottom of the ad for range of potential retailer fees. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. ‡Save the Freight discount offer applies to eligible new 2012 Ram 1500, 2012 Dodge Journey SXT/Crew, 2012 Chrysler 200/200 Convertible Touring/Limited/S, 2012 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT/Crew and all Chrysler Town & Country models offered through Ontario retailers. Chrysler Canada will waive the $1,500 freight charge. While supplies last. See retailer for details. The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications LLC, used under license. ■Based on *Ward's* 2011 Small Van Segmentation. Excludes other Chrysler Group LLC designed and/or manufactured vehicles. ▪Based on 2012 EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide ratings published by Natural Resources Canada. Transport Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. 2012 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package – Hwy: 7.9 L/100 km and City: 12.2 L/100 km. ▪SIRIUS and the dog logo are registered trademarks of SIRIUS Satellite Radio Inc. ▪Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.

Ready for summer driving?

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

Review. It carries half as many people as the convertible, yet costs a bit more – a fair price to pay for a little extra sporting flair

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

Break out the SPF 50 and the Ray-Ban sunglasses because the Mini Cooper Roadster just arrived.

The two-seat convertible — a first for the Mini brand and a companion to the recently launched Coupe — adds some visual spice to the Mini's broadening model lineup that already includes a four-passenger drop-top. Admittedly, it seems a bit odd that BMW-owned Mini would now have two not-so-distinct convertibles that are constructed off the same platform and share the same mechanical bits. Furthermore, the two-seat Roadster lists for only $300 less than the standard four-place convertible.

Ah, but there's a point that's being overlooked. The Roadster swaps out the rear bench that isn't particularly roomy in the first place for an actual trunk (another Mini first). We're not talking cavernous space here by any means (it has a bit less volume than the Coupe's trunk) but it's enough to store a few decent-sized travel bags or a set or two of golf clubs regardless of whether the top is up or down.

The Roadster's styling is far less controversial than that of the helmet-headed Coupe and it looks better with the roof up than the existing Mini convertible. Combined with a windshield that has been tilted back an additional 13 degrees, the Roadster is one of the best looking of the bunch.

The hair-drying Roadster deserves its sports-car appellation. And, with pricing that ranges from $30,500 to $41,500, consider it an alternative to the league-leading Mazda Miata and an extra-fun way to celebrate the summer season.

Staying planted

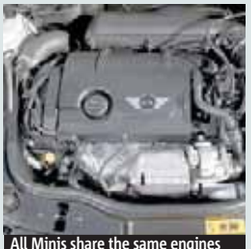
To reduce the Roadster body's tendency to twist — which is pretty normal behaviour when the roof is removed — Mini installed additional structural bracing in the trunk area and other key spots. And to help keep the rear end planted, a trunk-mounted spoiler automatically deploys once the vehicle reaches 80 km/h.

Lowering the lid

The black-only cloth top that includes a heated glass rear window is secured in place with a twist of a single windshield-mounted lever. The spring-loaded lid lowers flat into its stowage spot by pressing a button located between the roll bars. The outer portion of the top remains exposed after the folding process.

Mini Cooper Roadster

- **Type:** Two-door, front-wheel-drive two-seat convertible
- **Engines (hp):** 1.6-litre DOHC I4 (121); 1.6-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (181-208)
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy): 7.2/4.9 (base 1.6)
- **Base Price (incl. destination):** $25,000



All Minis share the same engines that burn premium fuel.

Engine

The Roadster gets the same basic trio of engines as every other Mini model, beginning with a 121-horsepower 1.6-litre four-cylinder for base models. A turbocharged 1.6 comes in the S version, while a tweaked-up 208-horsepower 1.6 is part of the John Cooper Works (JCW) package.

Rollbars are obvious additions to the Roadster, but is there really anything more obvious than the giant speedometer at the top of the centre stack? The tachometer is located behind the steering wheel.

A mini with a trunk is a rare thing, but the Roadster has one. It takes the place of the rear seat in the four-passenger convertible model.

By comparison

1 Mazda MX-5 Miata
Base price: $30,500

2 Fiat 500c
Base price: $21,500

3 Smart Fortwo Cabriolet
Base price: $21,700

5 DRIVE

Top Gear

One product for all

If you have rubber, vinyl and leather — and many vehicles do — you need three separate cleaners and conditioners, right? That used to be the case until Mothers VLR (Vinyl, Leather and Rubber) came along. The idea here is to quickly take care of the three types of surfaces with one product. How can one product take care of three completely different surfaces? The formula contains something called neatsoil (which comes from cows) for conditioning/softening/preserving, and lanolin (which comes from sheep) for water protection. Mothers claims VLR will safely remove tough stains and ground-in dirt while conditioning against drying, fading and cracking. This new product will sell for about $10 wherever Mothers products are sold (in most big-box auto-parts stores such as Canadian Tire) or you can find out more at mothers.com.

On the web

Scan code for more car reviews and news

Wide awake, no java needed

Autoknow. The Mercedes-Benz SLK senses when you should take a coffee break, but this driver was excited enough

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

By the numbers

5.4

Mercedes-Benz pegs the SLK roadster's zero-to-60-m.p.h. (96 km/h) time at 5.4 seconds, which is only about a second slower than the SL. However that time is more than a second quicker than the base SLK 250 that uses a 201-horsepower turbocharged 1.8-litre four-cylinder.

Matte-finish paint is popular with some buyers, which is no doubt why Mercedes-Benz offers it. Whatever you do, don't use polish on the surface. WHEELBASE MEDIA

A look at the SLK's cabin. At right, an overhead view of the car.

There's a backlit icon of a simmering coffee cup on the 2012 SLK's control panel that, for anyone unfamiliar with the latest in Mercedes-Benz safety gadgetry, is certain to cause confusion.

Could it be this particular well-optioned roadster comes with its own coffee maker? Or perhaps the symbol flashes intermittently whenever a Starbucks comes into view? Impossible to say, since the owner's manual, a critical tome considering SLK's techno-laden content, was AWOL.

"They're frequently missing after the cars are returned so we keep them here in the office," explained a Mercedes-Benz press-fleet overseer. The missing manual limited the range of plausible explanations to the ridiculous.

Fortunately, an experienced Mercedes-Benz brand hand came to the rescue, appropriately enough while parked outside one of the Seattle-based caffeine purveyor's outlets. After admiring the SLK from top to bottom, he spied the tiny cup-and-saucer symbol and explained that it denotes "Attention Assist," which is a safety feature that's programmed to sense certain driving behaviours associated with fatigue and issues both visual and audible warnings to the driver suggesting he or she take a break.

The smell of fresh-brewed Pike Place Roast wafting out from the air vents could probably work just as well.

Attention Assist is a fine idea, but it's hard to imagine anyone nodding off in what is one of the more exciting M-B models on the market and the best SLK that the German automaker has devised to date.

The SLK has steadily evolved since its 1997-model-year North American debut. The current generation now looks less like an inaccurate representation of its larger SL-class relation and, at least from the front, now resembles its twin. Both cars feature nearly identical upright grilles, headlight pods and extended hoods, along with similar retractable hard-shell roofs. Of course, what they don't even come close to sharing is their respective price tags; the $56,000 base SLK is offered at less than one-half the wallet hit of the SL.

Of course the SLK lacks the new-for-2013 SL550's 429-horsepower twin-turbo V8, but the 302-horsepower V6 and accompanying seven-speed automatic transmission in the SLK350 is no slacker.

The warp-factor model of the triumvirate is the SLK55 AMG that receives the full aero kit treatment, unique nosepiece and fancier wheels. It also sends its power to the pavement using a 415-horsepower 5.5-litre V8 and earns a 4.5-second zero-to-60-m.p.h. (96 km/h) time.

Within the SLK range, though, the 350 in my possession has a certain just-right feel. Around town, the V6 operates in a docile fashion, but can quickly flex its muscles when a squirt of passing thrust is summoned, or when attacking a freeway on-ramp. During these measures, the engine instantly clears its throat and delivers a distinctive, yet dignified growl while the seven-speed automatic imperceptibly kicks down into the appropriate gear. The SLK makes the entire process seem so easy and in no small measure enhances driving confidence.

Also easy is the two-seater's power-operated conversion to convertible from coupe status. The trunk lid pivots rearward while the hard tonneau cover flips upward and the two-piece roof stacks into its containment spot, followed by the trunk lid resuming its original position. The whole lowering/raising sideshow consumes about 20 seconds.

The test model was equipped with the available Magic Sky Control, consisting of a glass roof panel that changes to opaque from clear with the flip of a switch. Also included is constantly adjusting shock-damping control and a faster-acting Direct-Steer system that reduces by 25 per cent the number of lock-to-lock steering wheel turns. About the only item of concern on the well-appointed SLK was its matte-finish Designo Glacier Grey colour scheme. The idea of an as-tested $78,500 Mercedes wearing what amounts to a really dull paint job might seem anathema to some buyers. It also carries a sternly worded missive warning of dire consequences should the finish ever be polished.

The SLK test stretched into a week of mostly sunny skies and light Pacific Ocean-scented breezes on Vancouver Island. In other words, perfect sports-car weather in a part of the world attracts plenty of them.

And likely not one of their grinning drivers, including one SLK350 pilot in particular, required a cup-and-saucer advisory to keep the adrenaline flowing.

Opinion

Government not doing everything to protect car buyers

THE WHEEL DEAL
Todd Bourgon, Executive Director, Toronto Automobile Dealers Association

Imagine this: You see the advertised price of a product. You go to the store, pay the cashier the amount advertised (plus taxes, of course!) and you leave to enjoy your new purchase.

Sounds reasonable right? When it comes to car advertisements, that's not always the case.

I asked the TADA's director of government relations, Frank Notte, to tell me why this happens. The following is his response:

"Ontario's new Motor Vehicle Dealers Act came into effect on Jan. 1, 2010. This groundbreaking provincial legislation updated decade-old rules pertaining to contracts, disclosures, warranties and business practices. One major aspect of the new law is "all-in pricing" regulations.

All-in pricing means the advertised price is the final price consumers can expect to pay for the vehicle. The only amount of money that doesn't have to be included is taxes and licensing fees.

Gone are the days of an advertised price, with other fees and charges like freight and Pre-Delivery Inspection (PDI) appearing in fine print. The Toronto Automobile Dealers Association fully supports all-in pricing. It makes the car-buying experience much easier and allows more transparency for consumers.

Believe it or not, the law only applies sometimes! Sadly, the Ontario government decided to exempt advertisements placed by auto manufacturers from all-in pricing regulations. That means that auto manufacturers don't have to play by the same rules as automobile dealers and advertise the "all-in" price.

Often, consumers will see the ads placed by a manufacturer and visit their local dealership to inquire about a vehicle.

Too many times, the consumer is surprised to learn the price as advertised by the manufacturer is not the actual price they can expect to pay to drive the car off the lot. This upsets the consumer, frustrates the dealer, and nobody wins.

Consumers have enough to consider when buying a car — often the second most expensive purchase of their lifetime. They shouldn't have to worry about which advertised price is the actual selling price, and they certainly shouldn't have to read ads with a magnifying glass, an accountant and lawyer present to make sure they fully understand all the legal fine print.

You can affect change. Contact your MPP and tell them that all auto advertising should be subject to all-in pricing — consumer protection depends on it.

CUSTOM EVENT ENDS SOON

Ford CUSTOM CAR EVENT

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STARTING WITH FINANCING THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU.

0% FINANCING APR

72† MONTH PURCHASE | OR | 48** MONTH LEASE

On most new 2012 Focus and Fiesta models.

PLUS

$500‡ TOWARDS THE OPTIONS YOU WANT

TITANIUM MODEL SHOWN

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- Active Grille Shutters
- Easy Fuel® Capless Fuel Filler
- Anti-Lock Brake System
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OWN FOR ONLY $111† FINANCED BI-WEEKLY FOR 72 MONTHS WITH $2,430 DOWN PAYMENT.

LEASE FOR ONLY $198** PER MONTH FOR 48 MONTHS WITH $2,430 DOWN PAYMENT.

OR PURCHASE FOR $19,748*

ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL | TRACTION CONTROL | AVAILABLE POWERSHIFT™ 6-SPEED

5.5L/100km 51MPG HWY^^
7.8L/100km 36MPG CITY^^

OFFERS INCLUDE $250†† IN MANUFACTURER REBATES AND $500‡ IN CUSTOM EVENT INCENTIVE. OFFERS EXCLUDE TAXES.

2012 FIESTA SE HATCHBACK

- AdvanceTrac® with Electronic Stability Control
- Tire Pressure Monitoring System
- Steering – Electronic Power-assisted
- Remote Keyless-entry
- 1.6L Ti-VCT I-4 Engine
- Hill Start Assist

OWN FOR ONLY $98† FINANCED BI-WEEKLY FOR 72 MONTHS WITH $1,788 DOWN PAYMENT.

LEASE FOR ONLY $178** PER MONTH FOR 48 MONTHS WITH $1,788 DOWN PAYMENT.

OR PURCHASE FOR $16,998*

ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL | TRACTION CONTROL | AVAILABLE POWERSHIFT™ 6-SPEED

5.1L/100km 55MPG HWY^^
6.9L/100km 41MPG CITY^^

OFFERS INCLUDE $500‡ IN CUSTOM EVENT INCENTIVE.
OFFERS EXCLUDE TAXES.

Our advertised prices include Freight, Air Tax, PPSA and the Stewardship Ontario Environmental Fee.
Add dealer administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and applicable taxes, then drive away.

HURRY, MAKE IT YOUR FORD TODAY AT THE CUSTOM CAR EVENT.
ONLY AT YOUR TORONTO AREA FORD STORE.

torontoforddealers.ca

SiriusXM††† Available in most new Ford vehicles with 6-month pre-paid subscription

Vehicle(s) may be shown with optional equipment. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Limited time offers. Offers may be cancelled at any time without notice. See your Ford Dealer for complete details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. †† "SiriusXM", the SiriusXM logo, channel names and logos are trademarks of SiriusXM Radio Inc., and are used under license. †Purchase a new 2012 Focus SE 4 Door Sedan/Fiesta SE Hatchback Manual] for [$19,748/$16,998] after Total Manufacturer Rebate of [$250/$0] deducted. Vehicle shown is a Focus Titanium with MSRP of $25,099. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebate has been deducted. Offers include freight, air tax, PPSA and Stewardship Ontario Environmental Fee but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Delivery Allowances can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford of Canada at either the time of factory order or delivery, but not both. Delivery Allowances are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. †From Feb. 1, 2012 to Apr. 2, 2012, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2012 Focus [excluding S)/Fiesta [excluding S) models for a maximum of 72 months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment). Example: $20,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for 72 months with a down payment of $2,430/$1,788 or equivalent trade-in, monthly payment is $244.03/$252.94 (the sum of twelve (12) monthly payments divided by 26 periods gives payee a bi-weekly payment of $112.63/$116.74), interest cost of borrowing is $0/$0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $20,000. Down payment may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. All purchase finance offers include freight, air tax, PPSA and Stewardship Ontario Environmental Fee but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. Taxes are payable on the full amount of the purchase price. B-Weekly payments are only available using a customer initiated PC (Internet Banking) or Phone Pay system through the customer's own bank. (if offered by that financial institution). The customer is required to sign a monthly payment contract and furnish a cheque in the amount of the first bi-weekly payment on the contract date. Subsequent bi-weekly payments will be made via a PC or Phone Pay system commencing 2 weeks following the contract date. **Lease a new 2012 [Ford Focus SE 4 Door Manual/Fiesta SE Hatchback Manual] and get [0%] APR for 48 months on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment. Example: $17,316/$16,210 (Cash Purchase Price) with $2,430/$1,788 down payment or equivalent trade-in, monthly payment is $168.57/$168.57 (total lease obligation is $8,091.36/$8,091.36 (the sum of forty-eight (48) monthly payments divided by 26 periods gives payee a bi-weekly payment of $77.69/$77.69) cost of leasing is $0 or 0% APR. Taxes payable on full amount of lease financing period after any manufacturer rebate is deducted. Additional payments required for security deposit, NSF fees (where applicable), excess wear and tear, and late fees. Some conditions and mileage restrictions apply. Lease offers include freight, air tax, PPSA and Stewardship Ontario Environmental Fee but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. ‡Offer valid from February 1, 2012 to April 15, 2012 (the "Program Period"). Receive a maximum of [$500]/[$1000] worth of selected Ford custom accessories, factory installed options, or Customer Cash with the purchase or lease of a new 2012 Ford [Fiesta, Focus, Escape]/[Fusion, Mustang (excluding GT 500), Taurus, Edge, Flex, Explorer, Expedition, E-Series, Transit Connect] (each an "Eligible Vehicle") during the Program Period (the "Offer"). Offer must be applied to the Eligible Vehicle. The Eligible Vehicle must be delivered or factory ordered during the Program Period. Taxes payable on the total price of the Eligible Vehicle (including accessories and factory options), before the Offer value is deducted. This Offer is subject to vehicle, accessory, and factory installed option availability. Only one (1) Offer may be applied toward the purchase or lease of each Eligible Vehicle. This Offer can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford of Canada at the time of factory order or delivery, but not both. This Offer is not combinable with CPA, GPC, Dairy Rental Allowances, the Commercial Fleet Incentive Program (CFIP), or the AX/CD/PI Plan Program. Some conditions apply. Offer available to residents of Canada only. ^^Estimated fuel consumption ratings for the [2012] Fiesta 1.6L I-4 5-speed manual/Focus SE Sedan 2.0L I-4 5-speed manual]. Vehicle shown is a Focus Titanium 2.0L I-4 6-speed auto / 5.0L/100km (54 MPG) city and 5.2L/100km (54 MPG) Hwy. Fuel consumption ratings based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. ©2012 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.

Wary of going it alone, automakers eye up dance partners

Autopilot

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The messages from some of the automakers at last week's Geneva auto show were somewhat contradictory. Come look at all this great stuff we're building — way better than that crap the other guys build. Hey other guys, wouldn't mind a bit of help over here…

Just before the show, General Motors and the Peugeot-Citroen group announced an alliance, which will see GM will take a seven per cent share of the French automaker.

The arrangement is not unlike several that have developed over the last decade or so, between other auto titans, who have no intention of merging or allowing one partner to eventually swallow the other.

These new arrangements are all about trying to save costs on huge, global engineering programs.

Basically they're saying, we'll share development costs, because they're crazy expensive, then afterwards, we'll put them in our respective brand offerings and compete against each other like heck.

May the better man win, when it comes to exploiting that technology we both worked on.

With their vast R&D budgets and resources, you'd think most automakers would be big enough on their own, but analysts cite that looming fuel efficiency and emission targets are scaring the pants off some players, especially ones that don't have everything yet lined up in their pipelines.

And no one wants to bet the farm on one emerging technology, be it electric, hybrid, diesel, hydrogen, CNG, etc.

Another incentive to build alliances is to make sure you're not shut out of emerging markets.

A mature market is much harder to penetrate and less profitable. That's one of the reasons Chrysler-Fiat wants its next development dance partner to come from Asia (Mazda? Suzuki?), where it doesn't yet have a big presence.

Another reason is that the European marketplace isn't looking so good for the foreseeable future. Best go somewhere else for growth.

Another enabler of this trend is Volkswagen. The German automaker has gone on record, and made the point again at this year's show in Geneva, that it will spend over $70 billion over the next five years, to become the world's biggest automaker in both sales and profitability by 2018.

Currently standing in its way are GM and Toyota. If you are going to step into a ring with a bulked-up VW, you might want to bulk up a little yourself.

Toyota and BMW recently decided to trade respective technologies (hybrid batteries, diesel engines).

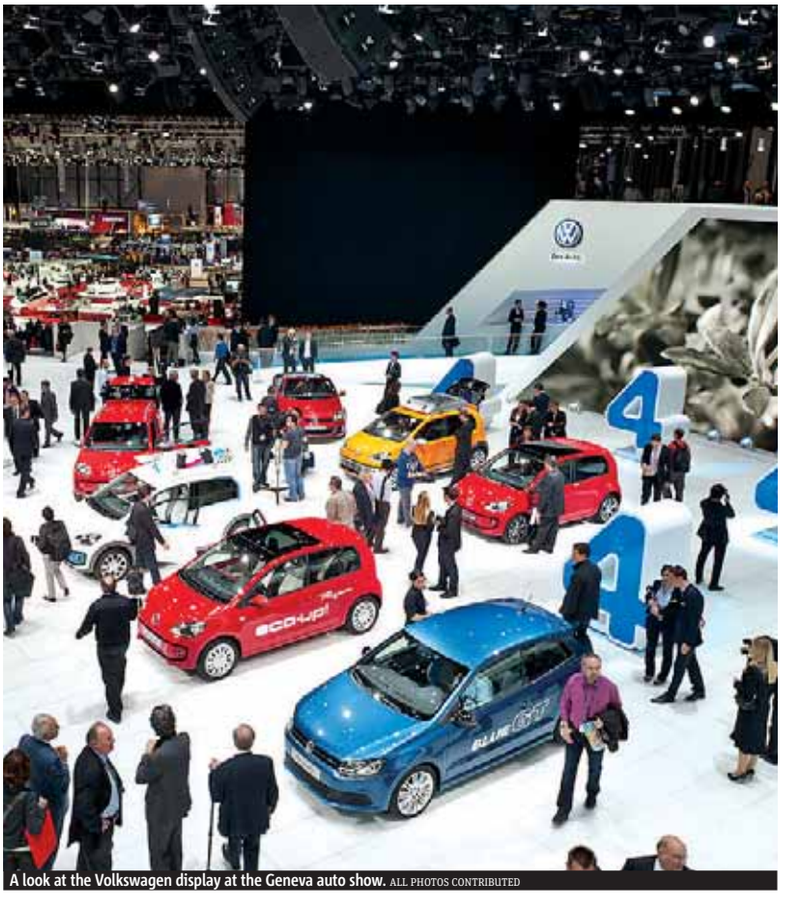
The Nissan-Renault alliance is going strong, and also works with Mercedes-Benz on a couple of projects. Those are just of few of the inter-company initiatives out there. And more will surely come.

Will this make life harder on the small, quirkier manufacturers? Likely not. It hasn't yet.

The Geneva show was again full of specialty makes with weird ideas. You can't stop creative thought and drive, especially when someone, yet again, wants to build a car company in their vision. So it seems all good.

And it feels strangely hopeful too, and humane even, that some of the biggest companies in the world can figure out a way to work together, and at the same time, compete so fiercely in the marketplace.

It's heart warming … It's life affirming … It's … Hold on … Suddenly feeling verklempt … Please talk amongst yourselves.



A look at the Volkswagen display at the Geneva auto show. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

A model poses inside of a Fiat at the show.

A model poses with an Alfa Romeo.

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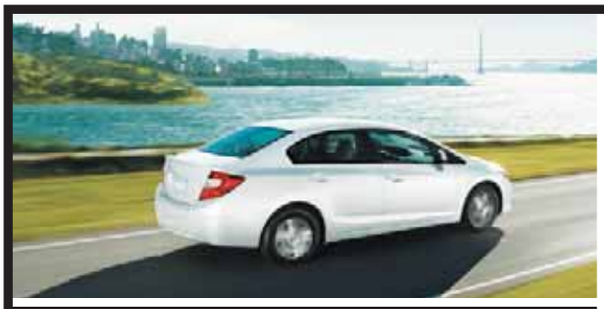

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*Limited time lease offers on a new 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) // 2012 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3CE[S]) // 2012 Honda Odyssey LX (Model RL5H2CE) available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. CR-V model shown is a 2012 Honda CR-V Touring (Model RM4H9CKN[S]). Representative lease example: based on a 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) // 2012 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3CE[S]) // 2012 Honda Odyssey LX (Model RL5H2CE) // 2012 Honda CR-V Touring (Model RM4H9CKN[S]) on a 48 // 48 // 48 // 48 month term at 1.99% // 3.99% // 3.99% // 3.99% lease APR, the monthly payment is $187.99 // $297.76 // $348 // $413.92 [includes $1,395 // $1,590 // $1,590 // $1,590 freight and PDI, EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C tax ($100), and OMVIC fee ($5)] with $2,430 // $3,400 // $4,229 // $3,400 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $0 // $0 // $0 // $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $11,420.52 // $17,692.48 // $20,933.00 // $23,268.16. 96,000-kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. For all offers: license, insurance, PPSA, and other taxes (including HST) are extra. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. Offers only valid for Ontario residents at Ontario Honda Dealers. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. Offers subject to change without notice. See your Ontario Honda Dealer or visit HondaOntario.com for full details. ◊Based on Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada (AIAMC) data reflecting sales between 1997 and December 2011. †9.2 city/6.6 hwy/8.1 combined L/100 km. Fuel consumption for comparison purposes only and may vary with usage and accessories. See Dealer for latest EnerGuide results published by Natural Resources Canada (when available). ‡Multi-Angle Rearview Camera with Guidelines intended to provide assistance to the driver. Always exercise appropriate care while reversing. ΔCompatible with select smartphones. Your wireless carrier's rate plans apply. Only use texting feature when conditions allow you to do so safely. ^Highest Residual value for Compact Utility Vehicles and Multi Purpose Vehicles by ALG. ALG, the industry benchmark for residual values and depreciation data, www.alg.com. *2012 Canadian Black Book Best Retained Value Award winner – Minivan Segment. See CanadianBlackBook.com for complete details. **Based on Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada data reflecting sales between January 4th, 2012 and February 29th, 2012.

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Aerio offered AWD and solid reliability

Second Gear.
2002 to 2006 Suzuki Aerio Wagon

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

The Suzuki Aerio Wagon was a machine that tackled a plethora of tasks exceptionally well — while earning itself a reputation for its high value proposition and access to cheap All Wheel Drive (AWD).

Retired to clear way for the Suzuki SX4 after 2006, the Aerio was aimed at active, value-minded shoppers after a vehicle with plenty of flexibility and space.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Engine

Power came from four cylinder engines — namely a two-litre, 141 horsepower unit or a 2.3-litre unit with 155. The latter engine was fitted to 2004 and later Aerio models.

What Owners Like

Owners love the surprisingly upscale and high quality feel imparted by the little wagon, and many say their machines are holding up well over the years. All Wheel Drive traction on slippery roads is also highly rated.

What Owners Dislike

Complaints typically centre around quirky styling and a noisy ride at speed.

Common Issues

Have the Aerio's brake system inspected for pad and rotor condition, as many owners say the Aerio wears out braking components at a faster-than-expected rate.

The two-litre engine may emit some lifter noise for a few seconds after startup, though if the sound is persistent, the engine may require expensive replacement lifters. Note that this problem seems focused on 2002 and 2003 models.

Be sure to check out the keyless access system too, as many owners report its failure over time. Finally, budget for a full fluid change and tune-up if you're unsure of the service history of the model you're considering.

Verdict

Common, significant or systematic problems seem to be few and far between. Aerio appears an adequately safe bet for the shopper after some uniqueness, utility, and an inexpensive AWD system.

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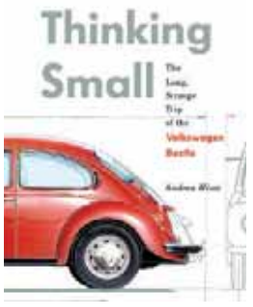
How Hitler's dream car became a top seller

Book. Thinking Small: The Long, Strange Trip of the Volkswagen Beetle



The Volkswagen Beetle has a unique and colourful history, with principal characters that include the Nazi dictator who personified evil, the legendary designer of Germany's most celebrated race cars and the Jewish advertising executive who pioneered a creative revolution on Madison Avenue.

It's a story whose twists and turns over four decades eventually gave rise to the oddly shaped small car that came to symbolize America's 1960s counterculture and went on to become the world's top-selling car model.

In her book Thinking Small: The Long, Strange Trip of the Volkswagen Beetle (Ballantine Books), author Andrea Hiott transports readers through the most turbulent decades of the 20th century, from the rise of Adolf Hitler to the Allied victory that left postwar Germany in ruins, to that nation's economic rebirth epitomized by the success of the Volkswagen plant at Wolfsburg.

A car enthusiast who never drove an automobile or held a driver's licence, Hitler had a vision for a "people's car" that would extend to Germans the same mobility that Henry Ford's Model T gave Americans. The dictator set out to build a network of autobahns and erect a massive factory in a pasture to build what he decreed to be The Strength Through Joy Car.

The genius chosen as its designer was Ferdinand Porsche, who was told to produce a prototype by 1935 so that one million cars would come off the line within three years. But with Hitler bent on war, the plant's mission shifted to arms production, and output shifted to mines, bazookas, V1 flying bombs and jeeplike utility vehicles.

Among the surprises in Hiott's comprehensive account is the importance of the plant's location in the British occupation zone to its ultimate success. Another big "what-if" is the 1947 decision by Ford to pass up the chance to acquire Volkswagen. The reason, according to the author, was the plant's proximity to the Soviet Bloc at a time when the Cold War was taking shape.

Hiott's account should appeal to history buffs, car enthusiasts and readers who delight in a fascinating story. The release of the book coincides with the debut of the 2012 Beetle that marks the second time the much-loved car is brought back by popular demand.

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Red light, green light? Your cellphone could know the answer

Driving Force. Researchers at MIT working on system that could save drivers 20 per cent of fuel

JIL MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

Red lights are crucial for traffic safety, but they can be hard on your gasoline consumption. Every time you stop for a red light, you use more fuel when idling and getting started again.

Fuel-efficient drivers will try to regulate their speed so they reach the lights as they turn green, but that's not always easy to do. Instead, a project at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is using cellphone technology to figure out just when your next light is going to change.

Since many people dock their smartphones on the dash for navigation, the researchers used them to devise a system called SignalGuru.

The cellphone cameras, which point at the street when the screen is facing the driver, photograph traffic lights as the vehicle approaches them.

"The camera is used to study the pattern of the traffic signal," says Emmanouil Koukoumidis, visiting researcher at MIT.

"The information is downloaded from the mobile phones of drivers who have been through the intersection. Then we gather and process it, and we do what is called 'machine learning.'"

The collaborative system amasses information about each intersection, using maps and GPS to determine when the vehicle is approaching the traffic light. It then turns on the camera and captures video frames, determining exactly when the light changes from red to green.

Using this information, along with pictures taken previously, SignalGuru "studies the past" to determine the exact time the light will turn green in the future.

"It will know that the intersection is red but it will turn green in 30 seconds, so if you drive at 40 km/h instead of 45 or 50, by the time you hit the intersection it will be green so you can cruise through without stopping," Koukoumidis says.

Using Boston as a model, the researchers calculated that drivers could save 20 per cent of fuel with the system.

The system is currently only a research prototype, although Koukoumidis has been contacted by commercial truck drivers interested in it, since large trucks use equally large amounts of fuel moving away from a stop.

The database could also potentially capture and process other important information such as gas station prices, the location of city buses, or the availability of parking spots.

SignalGuru

- In addition to prompting for specific speeds to reach green lights, SignalGuru could potentially use routing software to send a driver down a side street rather than slow to a crawl in anticipation of a green light.
- Vehicles are responsible for 28 per cent of energy consumption and 32 per cent of CO_2 emissions in the U.S., according to MIT research.

A look at SignalGuru in action. PATRICK GILLOOLY, MIT.

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Changing the radio game

Audio. Internet radio is the next best thing in in-car listening

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

For drivers using their vehicle as a personal listening space, satellite radio has made terrestrial radio obsolete — but a new breed of 'Internet' radio may make satellite radio a thing of the past, too.

Satellite radio is great. There's plenty of selection. The audio quality is good. You'll never have your listening interrupted to hear about the latest furniture sale or public service announcement about proper hand-washing.

Oh, and you can't drive out of range of a station since the signal is beamed down from space rather than across an expanse of land by an antenna.

But satellite radio, like terrestrial radio, is one-way.

Don't like what you hear? Change the channel.

And when you do, your most favourite song in the universe will come on while you listen to an OK song on another station — meaning you'll miss a chunk of it.

This leads to station anxiety and rapid toggling between numerous station presets to decide where to tune in. The result can be hearing fragments of songs, and it's a real pain in the butt.

But high-selection, in-car listening has advanced — and if you've got a Smartphone and a car stereo with auxiliary or Bluetooth input, that "better" listening experience is a cinch to tap into.

In Canada, the big-dog Internet radio service is called Slacker Radio.

The gist?

Imagine having only a few stations to choose from. Even as few as one. And they only play songs you'll probably like. And if they don't, you can instantly skip a song, or even ban it from playing on your station ever again. Like a song? Give it a 'heart' and you'll hear more of it.

Using Slacker is like having a fancy, DJ-assisted, music-spitting computer program feeding your ears only the tunes they like. And the basic service, which hooked me after trying it on a whim, should prove a more appealing and customized alternative to satellite radio for many.

It's free, too. The free service is fantastic, and two premium services are available optionally for less than your satellite radio subscription.

Using Slacker is as simple as visiting their site (slacker.com), signing up with your email address, selecting a 'seed' list of songs and beginning to listen to music you can enjoy, like or dislike.

Numerous genres are available, and the premium memberships even allow on-device storage of entire stations, or on-demand playback of any song or album available.

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An affordable sports car that can throw punches in the heavyweight class

Dream car.
2012 Audi TT RS

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

If the $136,000 Audi R8 is a wallet-buster, the 2012 TT RS that's now on sale in limited numbers will still pin you to your seat and plaster a big, fat grin on your kisser for about half that amount.

What's this? A bargain Audi that can run with the vaunted R8 sports car?

Well, sort of. Although not nearly as fetching as the R8, the TT coupe-based RS projects plenty of style and performance that sets it apart from the other TT models in the lineup.

It's doubtful that R8 owners will feel threatened by the TT RS, or vice versa. Each car has its own cachet that transcends the bottom line and both owners will likely be thoroughly satisfied with their purchases.

What you should know

- **Type.** Two-door, all-wheel-drive coupe.
- **Engine (hp):** 2.5-litre DOHC I5, turbocharged (360)
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 12.3/8.1
- **Base Price (incl. destination):** $69,600.

Flab free

Part of the secret to the car's success is that the entire TT line is relatively flab-free. Fully 69 per cent of the structure is comprised of aluminum, while only 31 per cent is steel, a ratio that reduces the car's heft by a claimed 48 per cent than if it were entirely constructed from steel. At about 1,500 kilograms, the RS weighs about the same as the Chevrolet Corvette coupe.

Manual transmission

As desirable as the RS is, you had better be one of the estimated five per cent of the nation's drivers who prefer to shift for themselves, since a six-speed manual transmission is all you can get with this model. That seems limiting as most of the car's direct competitors make available either an automatic or a faster-shifting dual-clutch automated manual gearbox.

The R8 is obviously in a different league than the TT RS, but the owner will have to drive the wheels off it to beat a TT RS in a stoplight war.

Engine

What R8 buyers are paying the big bucks for is a mid-ship-mounted 430-horsepower V8, superb balance and supercar good looks. Meanwhile, the TT RS makes do with a comparatively puny front-mounted 360-horsepower 2.5-litre turbocharged five-cylinder engine. Because the RS is turbocharged it makes 343 pound-feet of torque compared to the R8's 317.

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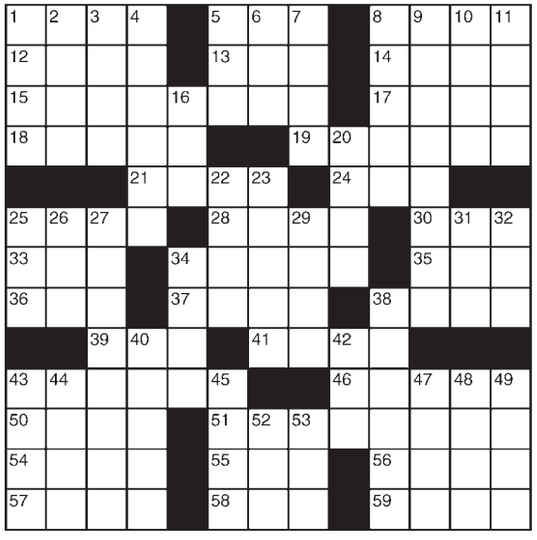

Across

1 Segment
5 Science room
8 Arizona city
12 On the briny
13 Id counterpart
14 Terrible guy?
15 Approve
17 Cheerful tune
18 Wheel radius
19 "— With Wolves"
21 Chantilly, e.g.
24 Understand
25 Initial stake
28 Burn soother
30 Altar affirmative
33 Scoundrel
34 Work dough
35 "— Town"
36 Greek H
37 Pruritus
38 Elbow counterpart
39 Cornfield cry
41 Melody
43 Riga's land
46 Lightweight wood
50 Sills solo
51 Meeting place
54 Lowly worker
55 "All the Things You —"
56 Muscat's land
57 Huff and puff
58 Louis —
59 "Unh-unh"

Down

1 Go by
2 Memo acronym
3 Gambling mecca
4 Stop the ballcarrier
5 Souvenir from 29-Down
6 Past
7 007
8 Pooh's creator
9 Bad news from the landlord
10 Post-Christmas event
11 Picnic intruders
16 Afternoon social
20 On in years
22 Lacks the skills to
23 Vote into office
25 Expert
26 Enthusiast
27 Force exerted by pulling
29 Aloha Tower site
31 Payable
32 Tramcar load
34 Fuzzy fruit
38 Michael, Diane or Buster
40 — -garde
42 Leno's network
43 Reindeer herder, maybe
44 Vicinity
45 Trojan War hero
47 Prom-night transport
48 Bathday cake?
49 Hathaway or Heche
52 Spoon-bender Geller
53 3-Down's st.

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Monday's answer

J	A	C	K	■	A	P	R	■	G	R	E	W
A	L	O	E	■	R	O	E	■	I	O	T	A
B	E	N	E	F	I	T	S	■	G	O	U	T
■	■	■	P	E	A	■	P	R	O	F	I	T
S	H	R	E	W	■	C	O	O	L	■	■	■
T	O	U	R	■	B	E	N	D	O	V	E	R
A	N	I	■	S	E	N	S	E	■	O	R	E
B	E	N	Z	O	A	T	E	■	V	I	N	E
■	■	■	O	U	R	S	■	M	O	D	E	L
F	E	D	O	R	A	■	K	A	Y	■	■	■
O	V	U	M	■	B	E	N	J	A	M	I	N
P	I	K	E	■	L	E	E	■	G	A	T	E
S	L	E	D	■	E	K	E	■	E	R	S	T

Sudoku

	6		4		9			2
				2		1		7
				1		6	3	
	1						8	5
			8		7			
8	3						2	
	2	7		8				
9		1		4				
5			9		1		7	

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Monday's answer

2	6	4	5	3	9	1	8	7
7	5	1	8	8	2	4	3	9
9	8	3	7	4	1	5	2	6
1	7	9	3	6	8	2	4	5
5	3	6	2	7	4	9	1	8
4	2	8	1	9	5	7	6	3
6	1	2	8	5	7	3	9	4
3	9	5	4	2	6	8	7	1
8	4	7	9	1	3	6	5	2

Send a kiss

- **Love Birds.** Since you have come into my life I have been so happy. You have given me so much joy. Time spent with you is never boring, we laugh and carry on, we enjoy the same things, thank you for rescuing me. I hope to spend the rest of my days with you. From the blues man
- **AC.** put the two together and feel the electrical vibes racing through our veins. Feel the hope of what tomorrow will bring. Learn from yesterday's experiences. Once again, sending a good night kiss to the lover of my main dreams... heart aches by every beat...sit outside in the dark and enjoy the warm evening night after a thunder shower. FDC
- **MyPet.** Very difficult when in the scene where am reminded of you. Recieving hugs and kisses from you makes me miss you even more.I don't know how to handle it... From lost myself
- **Chad.** I wish i could let you know how much i like you, someday you will know. 2Shy2SayHi

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Be careful what you ask for today because you won't be able to give it back if you change your mind.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. You may find it hard to resist something that's bad for you today. But maybe it's OK to give in to your less disciplined side.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. A friend will have a profound effect on your opinions and beliefs today, but don't go changing your entire outlook on life.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. There is a danger you could make some illogical decisions over the next 24 hours. On the work front, especially, think carefully.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Not everyone sees the world through your eyes and you would do well to remember that fact today.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. You may be worried about your money situation but that's OK because it will encourage you to search harder for a solution.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. A relationship is going through major changes at the moment. Don't make any hasty decisions. There's still time for you to decide.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. You need to face up to reality and admit that something is wrong. It won't be as painful as you fear.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Changes in the wider world will lead to new opportunities for you personally. Be ready.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. Someone you are close to will do something that takes you by surprise. Others think differently.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. Things won't happen the way you expect them to over the next 24 hours but if you refuse to worry, everything will come right.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. Life is not a zero sum game: There does not have to be a loser every time there is a winner.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"When it comes to doggie fashion, I think I'm it!"
Rick

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